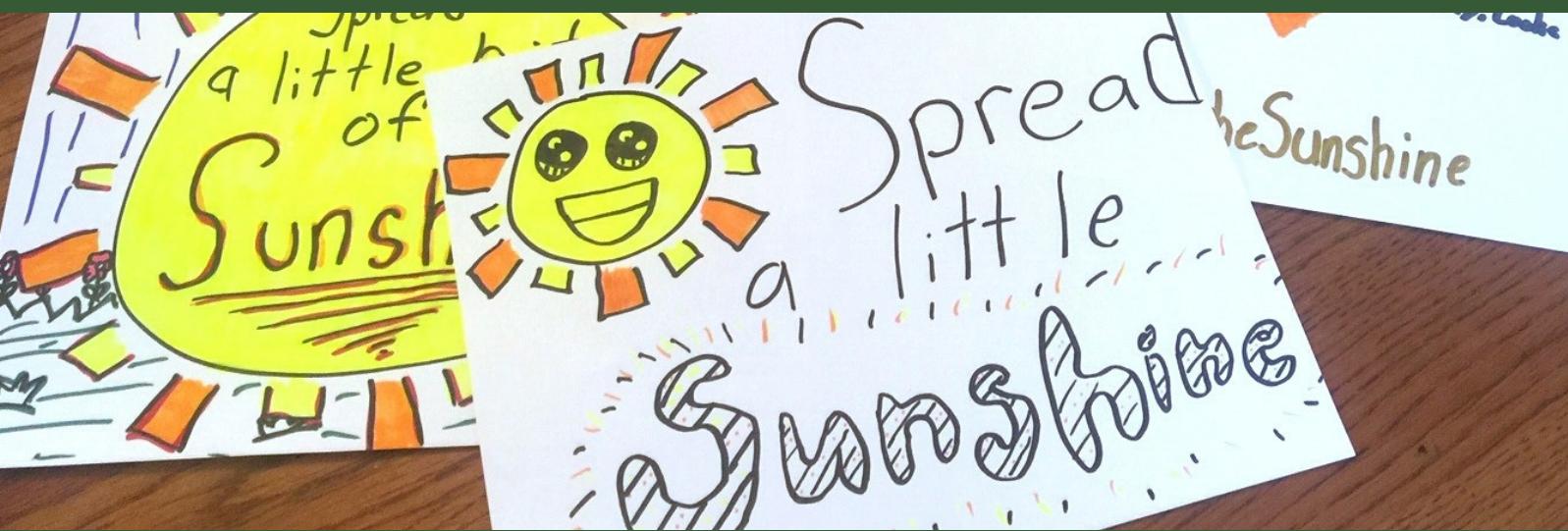


THE GREEN AND WHITE

The official quarterly newsletter of Cooke County 4-H



IN THIS ISSUE

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COUNTY 4-H NEWS

MARCH PROJECT

EMPOWERED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Cooke County and the Coronavirus

On March 3rd, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo kicked off with its usual crowds and festivities. Eight days later, it was canceled. In just a few days, COVID-19 turned life upside down. On March 19th, Governor Abbott issued a statewide executive order limiting public gatherings to 10 people. On March 24th, the County Government banned all non-essential services in Cooke County.

But it's in the dark that the stars shine brightest. Here in Cooke County, 4-H'ers have an opportunity shine bright in the community by focusing on their own personal development while raising up the people around them. At home, youth can use their free time to rediscover their interests and pursue personal growth. In fact, 4-H programs across the nation are now offering free activities online to assist 4-Hers in developing their projects and in learning new skills...

COOKE COUNTY AND THE CORONAVIRUS

4-H'ers can also stand up to help other youth in Cooke County by sharing their own ideas online. 4-H'ers can use the Cooke County 4-H Facebook, Instagram, Youtube, and blog to make videos, write articles, and design posts to share their stories, encourage others, and educate the community. In the process, youth can learn to use programs such as Adobe, Microsoft Office, Canvas, GIMP, and iMovie to develop life skills like graphic design, videography, photography, editing, and creative writing.

4-H'ers have been granted an opportunity to make a difference. How will you use it?

"4-H'ers have been granted an opportunity to make a difference.

How will you use it?"



Lindsay 4-H'er Alana Sharp holds cards she made to send to children in the hospital.

LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE

Cooke County 4-H is currently considering moving traditionally in-person events—such as the Public Speaking Contest, "Spring into 4-H" Project Day, elections, and monthly business meetings—online. Some events may be postponed until the summer. Event and activity requirements such as the Achievement Banquet requirements are being reevaluated to determine if any modifications are necessary to accommodate for the coronavirus. Everything is tentative, so be sure to follow Cooke County 4-H online to stay updated.

April through May

- There will be no face-to-face programs until May 4

June through July

- Summer events, including Roundup, ULtra Leadership Lab, County 4-H Camp, and Texas 4-H Congress, are all tentative
- Cooke County 4-H has canceled its Citizenship Washington Focus trip to D.C.

Roundup

- There will be no District qualifying contests
- All contests at Texas 4-H Roundup will be for senior 4-H members only
- All contests at Texas 4-H Roundup will be invitational, with three exceptions: Food Challenge, Food Show, and Share-the-Fun
- Details on the Food Challenge, Food Show, and Share-the-Fun qualifying contests are still being worked out

Community Service at Home

How to help your local community during the coronavirus while maintaining social distancing.

Donate.

Stock up Cooke County's emergency food pantry at VISTO by donating food items such as crackers, canned soup, and snack bars. Visit VISTO's website for a full list of needed items.
<http://www.vistohelps.com/>



Collect.

Collect pop tabs to help raise money for the Ronald McDonald Houses (RMH) of Fort Worth and Dallas, which provide a "home-away-from-home" for hospitalized children and their families. The RMH can raise money by recycling the aluminum pop tabs.



Tidy up your neighborhood.

Pick up trash around the roads and sidewalks of your neighborhood. Make sure to wear gloves and to bring an adult with you for safety.



Send a letter.

Write a letter or send an online greeting card to friends, family members, teachers, or first responders to thank them, wish them a happy Easter, or simply to brighten their day.



Check on your family and friends.

Make a call or face time your family members and friends that might be struggling during social distancing.



Volunteer.

Ask your teachers, club managers, or county extension agent if there is anything you can do to help them manage online activities and meetings.



Reuse, recycle, conserve, and compost.

Reuse, recycle, or repurpose glass, cardboard, aluminum, and plastic containers to minimize waste. Items such as parmesan cheese shakers, baby wipes boxes, mason jars, ice cream pails, tin cans, mint dispensers, milk jugs, and juice bottles can be **repurposed** into something useful or can be used for kid's crafts. If a recyclable item is too dirty or unsafe to repurpose, toss it in the **recycle** bin. Finally, reduce food waste by **conserving** food. Don't serve yourself more food than you can eat. Store your food correctly to prevent spoiling. Save, store, and actually eat leftovers. Treat expiration and sell-by dates as guidelines. Don't throw away "ugly" fruits and vegetables—chop off the bruised or wilted part and use the rest. **Compost** if you can.

4-H IN THE COMMUNITY



VISTO'S FOOD PANTRY

Cooke County 4-H partnered with the Cooke County Texas Tech Alumni Association in hosting a "Souper Bowl of Caring" food drive to support VISTO. Mrs. Janice Williams and Miss Maddie Williams led the effort by coordinating food drives to be set up at the County Extension Office, Hess & Rohmer, P.C., and at Sports Talk Radio. A total of 153 pounds of food and \$270 was collected.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

On February 27th, a team of 4-Hers volunteered to plate and serve dinner and dessert for about 250 attendees at the Gainesville Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet. Over \$1000 was raised for the volunteer's 4-H projects.



RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

Due to COVID-19, many hospitalized children will not get visitors. Thus, triplets Brandon, Alana, and Callie Sharp made cards to mail to the Ronald McDonald House and to Cook Children to encourage children currently in the hospital.

**Cooke County Junior Livestock Show
and FCS Contest**

RESULTS

January 4, 8-11, 2020



474 Exhibitors | 26 4-H Champions | 1171 Entries

Halter Gelding Champion: Charlotte Rondon

Jr. Western Division High Point: Madeline Neu

Jr. Western Division Reserve High Point: Eleanor Neu

Sr. Western Division Reserve High Point: Kevin Dangelmayr

Jr. Ranch Division High Point: Eleanor Hartman

Sr. Ranch Division High Point: Charlotte Rondon

Jr. English Division High Point: Breely Twito

Sr. English Division High Point: Jacqueline Smith

Jr. Speed Division High Point: Laramie Miller

Jr. Speed Division Reserve High Point: Breely Twito,

Sr. Speed Division Reserve High Point: Kevin Dangelmayr

Reserve Champion Market Steer: Jolie Bryson

Junior Cattle Showmanship: Jolie Bryson

Grand Champion Dairy Heifer: Nate Becker

Reserve Champion Dairy Heifer: Jessica Dangelmayr

Jr. Dairy Heifer Showmanship: Rita Becker

Sr. Dairy Heifer Showmanship: Anna Marie Becker

Jr. Swine Showmanship: Kylie Mercer

Reserve Champion Breeding Goat: Chanlin Smith

Sr. Goat Showmanship: Alexa Waneck

Reserve Champion Market Lamb: Madelyn Williams

Grand Champion Breeding Lamb: Jessalyn Reiter

Reserve Champion Breeding Lamb: Isaac Reiter

Jr. Lamb Showmanship: Madelyn Williams

Reserve Champion Meat Pen: Zane Reynolds, Valley View

Jr. Rabbit Showmanship: Raegan Neu, Lindsay

Sr. Rabbit Showmanship: Sydney Reynolds, Valley View

Grand Champion Breeding Poultry: Nate Becker

Reserve Champion Breeding Poultry: Nadine Woolsey

Reserve Champion Art: Heidi Becker

Grand Champion Clothing & Textiles: Raegan Neu

Grand Champion Creative Arts: Raegan Neu

Reserve Champion Creative Arts: Thomas Kilpatrick

Reserve Champion Foods: Kennedy Neu

Reserve Champion Photography: Raegan Neu

STOCK SHOW STORIES

Samantha Fisher won a \$4,000 scholarship for completing the 2019 Fort Worth Calf Scramble Program. She caught a calf again this year at Fort Worth.



14 Cooke County 4-Hers competed in the Fort Worth Open Dairy Cattle Judging Contest on January 19th.



Alexa Waneck went to every show with her goat!



Alison Becker won a \$10,000 scholarship for winning 1st place out of 342 contestants in Dairy Judging at San Antonio.

Denton Roessler placed 2nd at Fort Worth Stock Show with his rabbit Elain.

Raegan Neu won 2nd place with her white junior buck mini Rex at Fort worth.



Carly Watson was awarded 14th Place with her heifer at Fort Worth, 12th Place in Dairy Judging, and showed pigs at both San Angelo and San Antonio.



Savannah Roessler and her heifer, Lively, placed 6th in her class at Fort Worth and 2nd in her class at San Antonio.



Remee McLaughlin won 5th place with her heavy weight dark cross and made it to sale at San Antonio.



Race McLaughlin won 10th place with his heavy weight Duroc at San Antonio.

Nicholas Fisher showed Medusa, his cross breed swine, at the Texas Elite Showcase on Feb 7-9. The show was sponsored by the Texas Pork Producers. All pigs shown were required to be Texas Bred.

HOUSTON TAILS

By Raegan Neu

My sister and I showed our rabbits at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo on March 7-9. We took 10 rabbits and we did okay. We participated in a lot of fun activities and was able to spend time with Miss Texas who was at the rabbit show all 3 days. On Saturday, March 7th, we both participated in the Rabbit Judging Contest. For this contest, we take a written test with 50 questions on it. They are questions about the 49 different breeds of rabbits and how each breed is judged. We also have to take a 20 rabbit Breed ID test where we are shown different rabbits and we have to identify what breed of rabbit it is, what registration variety it is, what show variety it is, and also its body type. It is very hard to do because a lot of rabbits look alike but they are not.



Kennedy was awarded 1st place High Point Individual and was on the 2nd place team for Juniors, and I was awarded 1st place High Point Individual and was on the 1st place team for Intermediates. We both received plaques and Houston Livestock Show Jackets. It takes a lot of studying to be able to do well with Rabbit Judging. We also participated in a Rabbit Costume Contest where Kennedy dressed up as chef and her Holland Lop was a Lopster. He was sitting in a big pot wearing a lobster costume. I chose to be Showgirl Barbie. I dressed in official Rabbit show coat and my rabbit was dressed up as a unicorn. We were in a huge Barbie box. I was awarded overall Costume Contest Winner out of over 100 entries. The highlight was when Miss Texas asked if she could take her picture with me. We really like showing rabbits and especially like showing rabbits in Houston because of all of the extra opportunities there. We were really sad when we found out that others did not get to show there this year.



SCRAMBLING TO SUCCESS

In 2019, Samantha Fisher participated in her very first calf scramble at the Fort Worth Livestock Show & Rodeo. She caught a heifer and was awarded a \$500 certificate that was to be used towards the purchase of her own heifer. In June 2019 she purchased Gypsy, a 7 month old shorthorn heifer. Samantha worked daily with Gypsy, halter breaking her, feeding, watering, grooming, and becoming show ready. Throughout this process, Samantha wrote monthly letters to her calf scramble sponsor. She maintained records of the monetary cost for feed, hay, supplies, and more. Sam completed all the requirements to be eligible for consideration in the scholarship program. In March of 2020 Samantha received a notification that she had been awarded a \$4000 scholarship from the Southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show. It was truly exciting! Samantha returned to Fort Worth in January with Gypsy for the 2020 Junior Livestock Show and placed 3rd in her class. Samantha presently has sent Gypsy to a breeder and hopes to have a calf soon.

COOKING UP A STORM

Results from the Food Show and Food Challenge Contest

The Cooke County 4-H Food Show and Food Challenge Contest were held on February 17th in Gainesville. At the Food Show, individual 4-Hers prepare a dish at home and present it to a panel of judges. This year's Food Show theme was "Food Around the World". Contestants were challenged to explore foods and cultures from countries outside America. One Cloverkid competed in the Food Show: Samantha Simmerer. Great job, Samantha!

Food Show - Junior Division

Main Dish: Madeline Trammell 1st place)
Joshua Zimmerer Jr. (2nd place)

Bread & Cereal: Addison Wilkinson (1st place)

Food Show - Intermediate Division

Main Dish: Alana Sharp (1st Place)
Fruits & Vegetables: Chanlin Smith (1st place)
Brandon Sharp (2nd Place)
Bread & Cereal: Raegan Neu (1st Place)
Nutritious Snacks: Callie Sharp (1st Place)



A total of 10 teams competed in the Food Challenge Contest, in which teams of 3-4 youth receive one "key" ingredient and a pantry of additional items and have 40 minutes to create an original dish. The teams then present their dish to a panel of judges. The teams in the Junior Age Division were given strawberries as their key ingredient, Intermediate teams were given pork, and Senior teams were given cactus leaves.

Junior Division

1st Place: The Whisk Takers (Kennedy Neu, Ella Rauschuber, Kailey Riley, and John Rinner)

2nd Place: The Four Musketeers (Kari Bayer, Kora Bayer, Ayden Schad, Addison Wilkinson)

3rd Place: The Saucers (Lizzie Nishiyama, Jayden Rondy, Gabe Watson, Josh Zimmerer Jr.)

4th Place: Royal Cookers (Deklan Brodt, David Samek, Sarah Samek, Madeline Trammell)

Intermediate Division

1st Place: The Cooking Cuties (Maya Dulock, Mary Gomulak, Madeline Neu, and Lainie Reiter)

2nd Place: Create a Stir (Avery Dieter, Raegan Neu, Alana Sharp, Callie Sharp)

3rd Place: The Master Chefs (Lydia Samek, Wade Schad, Xavier Torres, Anna Watson)

Senior Division

1st Place: The Cooke County Country Cookers (Clara Raabe, Caitlyn Taylor, Samantha Torres, and Cameron Trammell)

2nd Place: The Cookin' Cowgirls (Ella Hasseloff, Rachel Samek, Carly Watson)

3rd Place: Chop It Like It's Hot (Cole Branson, Rory Dulock, Jenna Parkhill, Cassidy Tackett)





2020 CREATIVE ARTS SHOWCASE

Paintings and cookies and pies! Oh my! Cooke County 4-Hers made these and more for the Creative Arts Showcase on March 6-7, 2020. Over 196 items were entered into the showcase, including quilts, clothing, jewelry, sketches, paintings, cakes, pies, cookies, photos, collections of rocks, coke bottles, and toys, a flintlock rifle assembled from a kit, and woodcraft utensil rack.

The champions of each of the 15 categories in the Senior Age Division Photography Showcase qualified to the State 4-H Photography Contest.



PHOTOGRAPHY RESULTS



Animals - Domestic
Clara Raabe



Animals - Wildlife
Jacqueline Smith



Catch-all
Jacqueline Smith



Dominant Color
Jessica Dangelmayr



Elements of Design
Jessica Dangelmayr



Landscape / Nature
Clara Raabe



Enhanced - Original Photo
Jacqueline Smith



Enhanced - Photo
Jacqueline Smith



Motion / Action
Geordan Spaeth



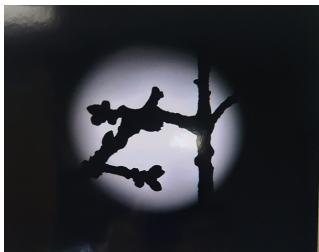
Night
Jacqueline Smith



People
Jacqueline Smith



Theme: The Elements
Jacqueline Smith



Shadow / Silhouette
Jacqueline Smith



Food
Rachel Samek



Details / Macro
Ethan Trammell



Plant / Floral
Samantha Torres

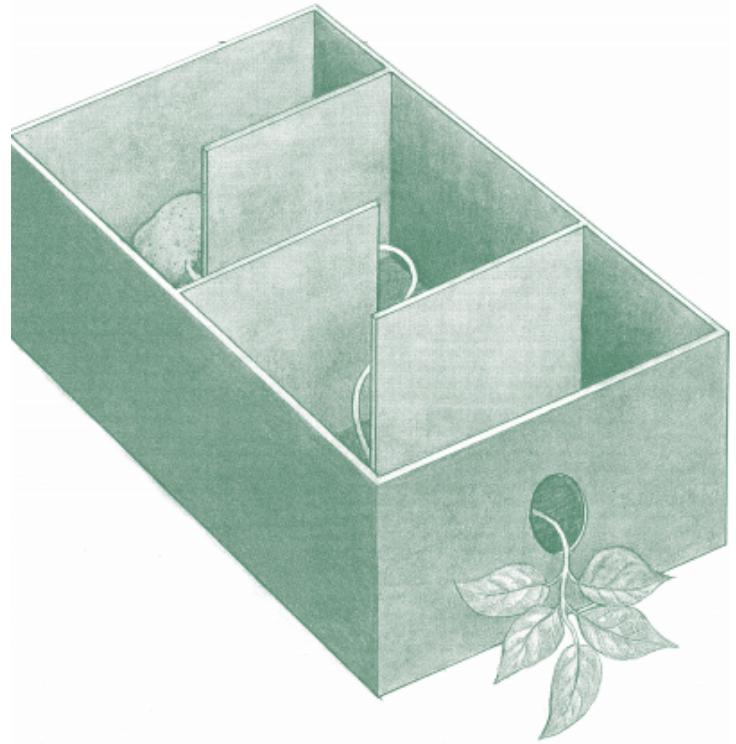
PHOTOGRAPHY RESULTS

March Project:

Build a Potato Maze

Celebrate Spring by learning how plants sense and grow towards sunlight!

- Long cardboard box with a lid (like a shoe box)
 - Scrap pieces of cardboard
 - Sprouting potato
 - Scissors
 - Tape or glue, if necessary
1. Make a small hole in a short side of a long cardboard box.
 2. Cut out several pieces of cardboard and stick them inside the box to make a maze like the one in the picture.
 3. Put a sprouting potato at the end of the box opposite the hole and place the lid on the box.
 4. Leave the box in a light place so that light can easily get into the box through the hole in the end.
 5. After a few days, take the lid off the box. Has your potato found the pathway through the “maze” to reach the light?



How does it work?

The potato senses the light and grows toward it, even though it has to find its way through a maze first. Does your potato shoot eventually grow out of the hole in the side of the box?

Looking for easy and fun ways to teach your kids life skills?

The National 4-H Program offers free activity guides for youth of all ages to develop their curiosity and critical thinking!

The 4-H Inspire Kids to Do Activity Guide, 4-H Healthy Living Activity Guide, and 4-H STEM Lab provide simple and educational hands-on activities to teach youth about science, technology, health, citizenship, agriculture, and more. Learn how to make simple and delicious “bread in a bag” for dinner tonight; make your own toys by hand-sewing finger puppets; harness the power of wind energy to move objects; explore physics by making a car with rubber bands; or discover fundamental chemistry concepts while making homemade bath fizzies to give to loved ones this Easter.

Activity guides can be found and downloaded online at the National 4-H Website,

<https://4-h.org/about/inspire-kids-to-do/>.





Empowered to make a DIFFERENCE

Texas 4-H offers a unique program to empower youth who want to take the next step in making a difference: Texas 4-H Ambassador Programs. Ambassadors are teams of high school-age 4-Hers who work together to pursue their interests and advocate for the projects they're passionate about. There are eight Texas 4-H Ambassador Programs for eight unique project areas in 4-H: Equine, Fashion and Interior Design, Healthy Living, Livestock, Photography, Shooting Sports, STEM, and Water. Our District—District IV—has a representative in each of these ambassador programs. *The Green & White* interviewed seven of the ambassadors in our District to get a glimpse inside the life of a Texas 4-H Ambassador:

Equine Ambassador Abigail Taylor (Collin County)
Healthy Texas Ambassador Jacqueline Smith (Cooke County)
Livestock Ambassador Reuben Stecher (Kaufman County)
Photography Ambassador Jacob Mayfield (Denton County)
Shooting Sports Ambassador Erik Dieterich (Denton County)
STEM Ambassador Peyton Elam (Kaufman County)
Water Ambassador Shelby Sprinkle (Grayson County)

Visit
<https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/ambassadors/>
to learn more about
the Texas 4-H
Ambassador Programs.

Why did you apply to become a Texas 4-H Ambassador?



"I applied to be an Equine Ambassador because I enjoy learning about and being with horses. Although I do not own a horse, I have competed in several knowledge-based 4-H equine and rodeo events, such as horse judging, hippology, public speaking, and horse quiz bowl. These experiences, along with riding lessons, have enriched my personal life and encouraged me to share my passion for horses with others. As a Texas 4-H Equine Ambassador, I am able to reach others like myself, who love horses but do not have daily interactions with them. I believe the equine industry is vital to the economy and youth involvement in agriculture. This is what people need to know."

ABIGAIL TAYLOR



"I applied to become a Healthy Texas Youth Ambassador because of the different leadership opportunities it afforded me, and also because of the better opportunities to teach others. I have been a type 1 diabetic for 16 years of my life and being a part of this program has given me more opportunities to share my knowledge about this disease with others."

JACQUELINE SMITH



"I applied for my Livestock Ambassador Short Course mainly off of the recommendation of a really good friend and mentor of mine whose daughter had been an Ambassador for many years. I had invested a lot of time into livestock projects and the Livestock Ambassadors seemed like a great way to take my projects to the next level. I wanted to learn more about agriculture as a whole from economical and political perspectives."

REUBEN STECHER



"I applied to become an ambassador because once I learned all that I could about the field of photography, I wanted to give that information back to as many people as possible and become a community leader in a subject I'm passionate about."

JACOB MAYFIELD

"I applied to be a Shooting Sports Ambassador because I love 4-H Shooting Sports and wanted to get more kids interested and involved with it."



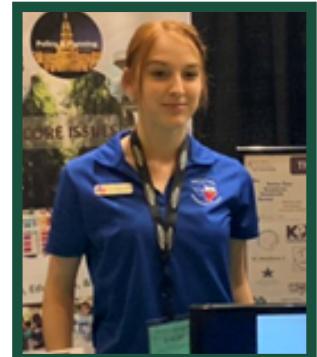
ERIK DIETERICH



Years ago I meet Audrey Stanley who was a Tech Team member at the time helping at State Round-up. She pretty much introduced the Tech Team to me, and told me a bit about it because I was quite curious. Then, in the following years at Round-Up, I paid attention to what the team was doing and saw a lot of what they were helping with at Round-up. From doing Interviews with contestants and agents to creating videos for the nightly assemblies & providing fun activities for those with free time in between contests, Tech Team was involved almost everywhere. All of this was right up my alley and I knew I had to be a part of it for at least one of my years in 4-H.

PEYTON ELAM

"I really wanted to get closer to a career with water. I'm particularly interested in Marine Biology. Being far away from the ocean, I wanted to try something that's close enough to get a feel for the field of water."



SHELBY SPRINKLE

What do you do as a Texas 4-H Ambassador?



"There are a variety of ways to serve as an Equine Ambassador. At the county level, I have served in the horse project for my club, planning and leading hippology practices and meetings, managing a table at Learn about 4-H Night, and working at local shows. This year, I have reached out to other clubs in my county. A new club, wanting to start their own horse project, asked me to come and share about the different opportunities available in 4-H horse projects. I spoke at another established club to recruit members for our county competition teams. As an ambassador, I have also had the opportunity to work at state events, such as the major rodeos and stock shows. In February, I volunteered at the Horse Discovery Center at the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo and was able to share with the general public about the different breeds of horses and the importance of horses in the Texas economy. The Texas American Quarter Horse Association had an event, where I was able to work setting up their courses and helping the coordinators and judges throughout the competition."

"I attend training seminars and help to come up with new health related workshops to train next year's ambassadors. I go to different counties, clubs, districts, and state-wide events and give educational presentations on health to help others increase their knowledge."



"At the beginning after working through the Short Course, the goal is to go back to your own county and make a difference there. You start locally, helping other 4-Hers with their projects, working with your CEA, raising awareness about local events, and teaching people about the important place animal agriculture holds in our society. Becoming comfortable talking about your experiences raising livestock is a big part of this phase. The next step is Advocacy Academy: a trip to the Capitol in Austin filled with interviews and conversations with big names in agricultural politics in Texas and the federal government. Beyond that, there are national and even international opportunities to travel and learn further."



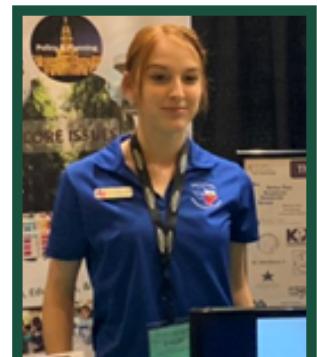
"As a photography ambassador, my job is to commit to 40 or more hours of service, whether that be directly teaching others individually or at one of our workshops, or attending any of several state-wide photography field trips. We are required to give back to our community continually, and are invited to instruct at high-level events such as the National 4-H Youth Photography Summit, which I recently attended."

"As a Shooting Sports Ambassador I help spread the word of 4-H and 4-H shooting sports. I also help out at different shooting sports related competitions."



"As a STEM Ambassador, we get the amazing opportunity to go and teach students all around Texas about STEM. Whether that be having a booth at a Stock Show, or working with one's own County. On top of that, we get to help with the technical part of 4-H State events, like Congress and Round-up."

"Mostly a lot of reading and teaching. We put on seminars, clinics and outreaches. We cover all water related topics like groundwater, conservation, aquifers, aquatic sciences, hydrology and the like. We are armed with textbooks and activities that help spread awareness and understanding to all ages. Some of the water ambassadors join the Texas Stream Team to monitor the water quality in their counties. It's pretty much up to individual interests to control your career as a water ambassador."



Was there anything you didn't expect about becoming an Ambassador?



"Before I became an Ambassador, I did not realize there was a need for someone like me from an urban environment to be an advocate for horses. Usually, it has been the people, who owned horses or were extremely experienced in handling horses, promoting the equine industry. Yet, here I was, with mostly head-knowledge and a few years of riding lessons, finding myself learning from industry leaders and excited to share with others. I learned to be an Equine Ambassador requires a strong passion of horses and a desire to share what I know about them with the public. I believe I am a connection between the rural and urban horse enthusiasts. I could connect to the urban public with my own life story and connect to the rural youth with my knowledge on the topic."

"I have to admit that I was surprised about the steps that are being taken to bring awareness to mental and emotional health. I was also surprised to find that we as a program are beginning to go into more depth on different health-related matters, such as the fact being healthy isn't just about exercise, it's also about being financially healthy, spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and economically healthy."



"Going in, I imagined a sort of battle ground where farmers, ranchers and their supporters fought against opposing viewpoints in a quiet, invisible war. Elements of that exist, but for the most part, people don't know the USDA definition of organic or the difference between grass-finished and grain-finished beef, and, frankly, they don't care. Consumers are simply looking for healthy food for themselves and their families. Often all it takes is a genuine conversation to inform people about how ranchers care for their animals and what those labels mean to make a big difference."



"Nothing really surprised me about being an ambassador after I joined, since the program coordinator, Ms. Elizabeth Schlak, is incredible about telling us exactly what is expected."

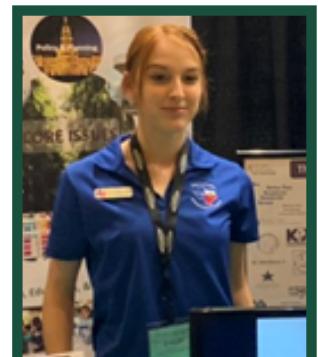
"There wasn't really anything I didn't expect when I became an ambassador. I knew I would have to put a lot of time into it, and that was fine with me."



"The biggest surprises with the STEM Ambassadors program that we do more than just help with State Round-up, and how much we are actually taught by the directors and team veterans. From the outside looking in, all I saw with the Ambassadors was them working hard at Round-up to get everything done so it all went smoothly for 4-H'ers. I had no clue that they did more than that. Now that I am Ambassador, I see all of the different events we can serve at and all of the students we can help teach."

And like I said before, I did not expect to be taught this much by other STEM members. Don't get me wrong, I didn't expect them to throw us in the deep end and rely on our own wit to get by, but we are taught quite thoroughly about a variety of different concepts and gadgets."

"I guess I didn't expect it to be such a large topic or to be so involved. There's a lot that goes on in order for you to get water from the tap, and a lot happens to water after you use it. Most people don't know what an aquifer even is and how dependent we are on the water it supplies us with. They don't know the risks aquifers are facing or the endangered animals that depend on them. Now that I do, I guess spreading awareness has become my goal."



Is there any advice you would give to a 4-Her interested in applying to become an Ambassador?



"I know it seems overused when giving advice like this, but just go for it. The equine industry needs more youth advocates, who have the passion and the knowledge to fuel it for the next generation. So if you have that passion, I urge you to go for it."

"BE PREPARED FOR YOUR HOUR REQUIREMENTS. You think you'll be prepared and that you do enough... it's not enough. Have some ideas about what programs you want to do throughout the year."



"Be honest and ready to dive in. If you are interested in becoming a Livestock Ambassador, go in with your eyes and ears open ready to listen to new ideas and understand differing viewpoints. More often than not, the best Ambassadors are not the people who have all the answers, but the people who are enthusiastic, dedicated to animal agriculture, and willing to jump into a difficult situation."



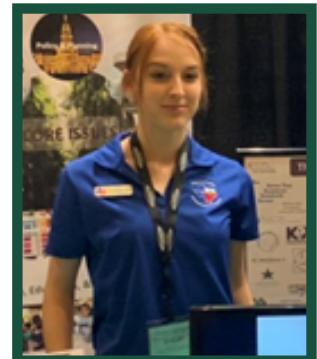
"I would tell any aspiring 4-Her to take the leap and become an ambassador, photography or otherwise. You'll be immersed in a whole separate level of activity, and learn so much in the process."

"The one piece of advice that I would give to anyone who is interested in becoming a Shooting Sports Ambassador or any ambassador, is that you will be busy, but it's also rewarding. You represent 4-H in a leadership role, so you have to put in the most amount of work you can to give 4-H a good image."



"If you are at all interested in joining the STEM Ambassadors, do it! It is seriously one of the best experiences I've had the opportunity to be part of for a multitude of reasons. The Ambassador Directors are exceptional people and are looking to help us do our job the best we can. The members of this group are an extremely diverse group. We have Robotic geeks, Photographers, Programmers, and even a few of the Artsy-Fartsy type. Every single one of these people are great at what they do, and are looking to do and learn more themselves."

It's not as hard as it looks. I didn't know half as much as I do now. The topics are very comprehensive. Mr. Smith does a very good job managing the program to help struggling ambassadors. Not only that, but I've made great friends in the program, and it's a joy to work them.





Announcements & Reminders



COOKE COUNTY 4-H ONLINE

Cooke County AgriLife Website
cooke.agrilife.org

Contact the Cooke County Extension Office, download forms and resources, and stay informed on COVID-19 prevention.

Facebook and Instagram
[#cooketx4h](#)
[#cookecounty4h](#)

Stay updated on the latest county 4-H news and learn about upcoming county, district, and state 4-H events.

Cooke County 4-H Blog
<https://cookecounty4h.wixsite.com/blog>

Learn what other Cooke County 4-H'ers are doing and share your own stories.

Youtube
Coming soon!

County 4-H Council Applications

Applications for a position on the 2020-2021 Cooke County 4-H Council will be online this year. Council Officers are responsible for planning county-wide events and activities, promoting 4-H, and representing Cooke County 4-H to the local community. Applicants must have served as Club President, Council Delegate, or Alternate Council Delegate this year to be eligible.

Have questions about the Cooke County 4-H Council? Feel free to contact Phyllis Griffin or any member of the 2020 County Council.

County Camp Counselor Applications

The online County Camp Counselor application form is up on the Cooke County AgriLife website!

General qualifications include:

- Applicants must be going into the 8th grade, and
- Applicants must have attended Cooke County 4-H Camp in previous years.

Learn more information at <https://cooke.agrilife.org/4-h-camp-counselor/>.

State 4-H Photography Contest

This year, the State 4-H Photography Contest will be open to all seniors, with a limit of 1 photo per category. No county qualifying contest is required. Senior 4-H members can register for the contest on 4-H Connect Online. The registration fee is \$10.00 per photo.

Mark Your Calendar!

April

- State 4-H Photography Contest Registration.....April 1 - 15
- Texas 4-H Congress Registration.....April 1 - 30
- Texas 4-H Online Record Book User Training.....April 9
- Multi-County Virtual Livestock Project Workshop.....April 16
- County 4-H Camp Counselor Application Deadline.....April 20
- County Council Application Deadline.....TBA

May

- Texas 4-H Congress Late Registration (increased fee).....May 1
- Water Ambassador Application Deadline.....May 1
- Livestock Ambassador Application Deadline.....May 1
- Healthy Texas Youth Ambassador Application Deadline.....May 1
- VISTO Murder 76240 Fundraiser.....May 21
- Texas 4-H Congress Bill Submission Deadline.....May 29

June

- East Region 4-H Horse Show.....June 1 - 3
- Texas 4-H Roundup.....June 8 - 11
- Project Record Form Deadline.....June 25
- Cooke County 4-H Camp.....June 19 - 22

July

- State 4-H Dog Show.....July 10 - 11
- Texas 4-H Congress.....July 12 - 15
- Achievement Banquet Award Applications Deadline.....July 17
- Achievement Banquet Interview.....July 25

CLUB INFORMATION

AGRICULTURE JUNKIES 4-H CLUB	When: TBA Where: TBA	Beverly Fleitman: bevfleitman@ntin.net Penny Taylor: christnmom2004@yahoo.com
COOKE COUNTY 4-H LIVESTOCK CLUB	When: 6:30 pm on the 2nd Monday of every month Where: TBA	Beverly Fleitman: bevfleitman@ntin.net Sheila Smith: shsmith@gainesvilleisd.org Angela Roessler: angela.roessler@yahoo.com
COURAGEOUS CANINES 4-H CLUB	When: 6:30 pm on the 4th Tuesday of every month Where: TBA	Tracie Steed: faithtra2@gmail.com
LINDSAY 4-H CLUB	When: 4:00 pm on 4/5 Where: TBA	Janice Williams: lwandjaw@gmail.com Billie Becker: billiebecker@msn.com Samantha Parkhill: parkhill29@att.net
MIDNIGHT MUSTANGS 4-H CLUB	When: 6:00 pm on the 1st Tuesday of every month Where: TBA	Rachel Stephens: boldhorsemanship@gmail.com Robin Levison: robin.levison@basicenergyservices.com ***Mounted Meetings: 3rd Sundays @ 2 pm, Location TBA
MUENSTER 4-H CLUB	When: 3:45 pm on the 1st Tuesday of every month Where: TBA	Wayne Becker: wbecker35@live.com Denise Dangelmayr: jdranch@ntin.net
RED RIVER 4-H CLUB	When: 7:00 pm on the 2nd Tuesday of every month Where: TBA	Katy Smith: katysmith800@gmail.com Bernadette Trammell: bernadettejmiller@yahoo.com Jamie Watson: jlh2665@yahoo.com
SHARPSHOOTERS 4-H CLUB	When: 7:00 pm on the 3rd Tuesday of every month Where: TBA	Laura Eastman: cooke4hsharpshooters@gmail.com Ellen Samek: ellen@sameks.us
VALLEY VIEW 4-H CLUB	When: 7:00 pm on the 3rd Tuesday of every month Where: TBA	Susan Raabe: smsraabe@gmail.com
CLOVER KIDS	When: 10-12 on the 4th Saturday of every month Where: TBA	Phyllis Griffin: pagriffin@ag.tamu.edu
COOKE COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL	When: Monday evening in May (TBA) Where: Online or in-person (TBA)	Phyllis Griffin: pagriffin@ag.tamu.edu