**Deaf Smith County 4-H News**

**July 15, 2015**

* **Congratulations:** To those youth who submittted 4-H Record Books for District competition:

Seniors: **Emily Turpen, Tom Keeling, Brenden James, Marco Mata, Turner Taylor**

Intermediates: **Brad Turpen, Macie Mimms, Jack Detten, Matlin Mimms, Rachael Detten**

Juniors: **Avery Detten**

After District judging, **Tom Keeling’s** Public Speaking book will be advancing to state competition in August.

* **Congratulations** to those youth who competed at District Trap Shoot in Amarillo:

**Brad Turpen, Connor Altman** and **Daniel Arias**.

* **The main fundraising project** of the 4-H Parents Association is the Polaris 4-Wheeler Raffle, which provides general funding to support local 4-H youth as they participate in project activities, camps and contests. Each 4-H member is asked to help with ticket sales. Only 300 $50-tickets are sold and the winner will be named at the Annual 4-H Achievement Banquet on **Sunday, Sept. 27**. Please come by the 4-H office as soon as possible to pick up your packet of tickets to sell.
* **Project Records Due:** Project pins are awarded at the annual Achievement Banquet to those 4-Hers who have completed 4-H Projects during the year. Completion is determined by your 4-H record Book, district & state contests and Project Records. If you are not sure if you need to submit a Project Record to receive credit for your 4-H involvement, please contact out office. We will be accepting 2014-15 forms through July 31.
* **Sheep & Goat Tags:** If you plan to show a lamb or goat at a major stock show in the spring of 2016, it’s time to order tags. Cost: $15 each.
* **District Photography Contest:** The District 4-H Photography contest is underway **now through July 20** on [4-H Connect](https://texas.4honline.com/).  This is an easy and fun project that adds diversity and new experiences to your 4-H learning opportunities. The categories are: Animals (Domestic), Animals (Wildlife), Catch-All, Details & Macro, Digital Darkroom, Dominant Color, Elements of Design, Food, Marine/Aquatic, Marine/Aquatic, Nature & Landscape, Night Photography, People, Plant/Flora, Storyboard, Theme: “Inspiration.”
* **Gold Star & I Dare You Awards:** Interviews for those senior-level 4-H members who wish to apply for their Gold Star or I Dare You Leadership recognition will be held July 28 or 29. You must be 15 -18 years old to apply. Gold Star applicants must have submitted a 4-H Record Book during the current year. Application forms for these awards are available upon request and have been previously emailed to all senior-level 4-Hers. **APPLICATION DEADLINE: JULY 20 If you intend to apply for either or both of these honors, it is important that you notify our office if you have scheduling conflicts with either of these dates.**
* **Club Leaders Needed:** At this time, we do not have club managers for the following project groups for the coming year: **Clothing Club, Horse Club** and **Consumer.** We still need adult volunteers who are willing to lead 4-6 seasonal club meetings/activities during the coming year. For more information, please contact our office.

The clubs and project groups that have committed club managers for next year are: **Clover Kids** (Erin Baird), **Livestock** (Jessica Detten), **Community Club** (Rick Auckerman & Amalia Mata), **Rabbit** (Jean Turpen), **Shooting Sports** (Rick Auckerman & Lanny Redwine), **Food** (Tamara Mimms & Jaime Brorman), **Public Speaking** (Kerrie Steiert), **Livestock Judging** (Scott & Moriah Pohlman) and **County Council** (Kerrie Steiert).

* **Enrollment: Opens August 17th -** 4-H enrollment opens for the new 4-H year (2015-16) on [4-H Connect](https://texas.4honline.com/). **This year, please be aware that the annual enrollment fees will not be paid this year by the Parents Association. *Each family will be responsible for their own enrollment costs of $20 per child ($25 after Oct. 31).*** The Parents Association will generously continue to pay contest participation fees during the coming year. The Association will also help with Camp/Retreat fees, but not cover the total costs. You can also enroll by picking up the necessary forms at the 4-H office.

* **New Age Divisions:** Effective with the new 4-H Year signup (August 15, 2015 to September 30, 2016) Texas 4-H will have new membership eligibility based on SCHOOL GRADE and not age.  The new eligibility rules and guidelines are: 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)

**4-H Member Categories:**

Juniors:  Grades 3, 4, and 5

Intermediates:  Grades 6, 7, and 8

Seniors:  Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12

**Clover Kids:** Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd grade (Limited participation; cannot compete)

**IMPORTANT 4-H DATES:**

JULY 18-25 – Texas 4-H Horse Show in Abilene

**MONDAY, JULY 20 – DEADLINE:** District Photography entries on 4-H Connect

**MONDAY, JULY 20 – DEADLINE:** Applications for Gold Star & I Dare You awards due in County office

               JULY 28 OR 29 – Interviews for Gold Star/I Dare You (Let us know of date conflicts)

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 29 – Officer elections for County 4-H Council, 5:00 p.m. All youth ages 11-18 encouraged to participate in this leadership opportunity.**

               SATURDAY, AUG. 1 – TCFA Fed Beef Challenge at WTAMU, 8:30 a.m.

**FRIDAY, AUG 7 - DEADLINE: Entries due to County office for Tri-State Fair junior market stock shows**

MONDAY, AUGUST 17 – 4-H Enrollment for 2015-16 opens ON 4-H Connect ($20 per child before Oct. 31)

               MONDAY, AUGUST 24 – HISD first day of school

               MONDAY, SEPT. 7 – Labor Day: County offices closed

               SEPT. 18-26 – Tri-State Fair in Amarillo

               SUNDAY, SEPT. 27 – Annual 4-H Achievement Banquet, noon

               OCTOBER 19-22 – HISD Testing

               NOVEMBER 11 – Veteran’s Day: County offices closed

               NOV. 26-27 – Thanksgiving Holiday: County offices closed

               DEC. 24-25 – Christmas holiday: County offices closed

We always welcome your questions, comments and concerns. Please contact us as needed.

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to

race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status.