



Lavaca County 4-H News

January 7, 2023



always keep an eye on <https://lavaca.agrilife.org/> and our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/LavacaCounty4H>.

Happy New Year!! I apologize that this is coming to you a day late –but I am delighted to be writing it while sitting at the Texas 4-H Conference Center in Brownwood. It occurred to me to me while driving up here that we haven't done an introduction in the newsletter at all this 4-H year. If you are among our new members in Lavaca County, welcome! We have one of the largest enrollments in our eighteen county District 11—with 323 members and 31 clover kids! You can join 4-H at any time, so do please encourage your friends to join!

I am Natalie Knesek, the Family and Community Health Agent and 4-H Coordinator. My co-worker, Shannon DeForest is the Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent. Jennifer Steffek is our office manager. We are all three available to assist you when you need help.

We have 5 main project areas in 4-H: Agriculture and Livestock; Natural Resources, Family and Community Health; Citizenship and Leadership; and STEM. If you need help with Agriculture and Natural Resources projects reach out to Mr. DeForest. If you need help with Family and Community Health reach out to me. We are both available to help you with Citizenship & Leadership and STEM. Additionally, we have three state level project ambassadors who are available to serve as teen leaders: Adalyn Pohl – STEM, Abigail Hill – Livestock, and Keely Knesek – Healthy Youth Ambassadors.

The new calendar year is a great time to set goals for your projects. A project is not a project unless you have six learning experiences (that are each at least thirty minutes long), exhibit your project in some way, and do community service and provide leadership. Your learning experiences should either be gaining new knowledge or improving/practicing skills. If you are not doing anything new or different it is not a learning experience. Challenge yourself in 2023 to do more! Your 4-H experience is more than the stock show (which is an activity as part of your project) and the year does not end when your show is over. To be an active member you should be attending your monthly meetings and participating in club activities. Look for opportunities to teach others and to give back to your community.

Use this newsletter and the state email that comes out weekly to find great opportunities to be a part of. Most importantly, have fun—4-H is what you make it!

Happy 2023
Natalie

Good Luck to those who are participating in the upcoming shows.
Check the show rules for the schedules.

Upcoming Local Stock Show Dates

Yoakum- January 13-14, 2023

Moulton-January 15, 2023

Hallettsville-20-22, 2023

Hope-February 18, 2023

County Council and Adult Volunteers

The County Council will meet at 6:00 p.m on Monday, January 9, 2023 at the County Extension Office. All clubs are urged to have three delegates in attendance. All members are invited to participate in county council meetings. Officers need to arrive at 5:30.

Attention All Livestock Exhibitors

It is the responsibility of each 4-Her to read, understand, and follow the rules of each activity they participate in. This especially holds true for local and major livestock shows, as consequences for breaking the rules can be quite significant. Please contact the Extension Office if questions should arise.

Medications:

4-H livestock exhibitors should be aware of the withdrawal times on medications and medicated feeds being given to show animals. Technically withdrawal time should be calculated from the time the animal arrives at the show. Please contact your veterinarian or feed dealer if there are any questions. Animals with illegal chemicals found in their system will be disqualified.

Scales:

Lavaca County 4-H has two scales for weighing swine, lambs and goats that can be checked out. Please call the Extension Office to book a scale. Please remember when you transport the scale, it must be locked down. This keeps the cables from breaking. Also make sure you clean the scale before returning it to the 4-H building. **PLEASE NOTE: DO NOT BRING ANIMALS INTO THE 4-H BUILDING.**

Clippers:

Lavaca County 4-H has animal clippers that can be checked out. Please call the Extension Office to book them. **Clippers are checked out without blades. It is each families responsibility to have blades for their projects.** Below is a list of suggested blades to purchase for use on the 4-H clippers

Steers (slick shear):

Goats:

Lister Cover Cote blades

Lambs:

Lister 2241 Fine

Swine:

Andis #10 blade to be used with guards



This is a great opportunity for adult volunteers who currently coach or are interested in coaching a food challenge team. Courtney Dodd is given credit for originating the food challenge contest and Tonya Poncik is a dynamic coach and judge.

County Photography

Contest entries are due in the office by February 3rd. The contest rules are posted on the county website at <https://lavaca.agrilife.org> or you can stop in the office for a copy on the front counter.



4-H Food Challenge Hands On Workshop *for New & Experienced Coaches, Judges and County Extension Agents*

This workshop is an opportunity to look at the contest from a participant's to a judge's viewpoint.
Topics include: Understanding the scoresheets, rules and recommendations to help your team become successful.

Saturday, January 28, 2023
9 am - 3 pm

Walker County Storm Shelter
455 Highway 75
Huntsville, TX 77340

\$25 per person
RSVP to link below by
Wednesday, January 25



For More Information Contact

Flora Williams
Brazos County Extension Agent
Family & Community Health
flora.williams@ag.tamu.edu

Tonya Poncik
Lee County Extension Agent
Family & Community Health
tonya.poncik@ag.tamu.edu

Dr. Courtney Dodd
Associate Director
Health, Families & Youth Programs
courtney.dodd@ag.tamu.edu

TEXAS A&M
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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.

Madeline Collins and Keely Knesek are at the Texas 4-H Center this Weekend attending Texas 4-H Teen Retreat. They have spent today focused on team building skills, low ropes, and public speaking.



Record Book Corner: Section VI: This section is where you get to show your involvement in non-4-H activities. To make it easier for the judges to read, consider using bullet statements and categorizing your activities—i.e. community, church, and school. Include your sports leagues, show associations, youth groups, school academics, sports, band, etc.

Save the Date

Spring Spectacular Workshops

This will be an opportunity to learn about Fashion Show, Educational Presentations, Quiz Bowls, Consumer Decision Making, Talent Showcase, Duds to Dazzle, and Storyboard.

Call the Office to register

Let us know which sessions you will attend. Please RSVP by February 9.

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Educational Presentations & Talent Showcase

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m. Consumer Decision Making & Quiz Bowls

Lunch Break

1:00 p.m. -3:00 p.m - Fashion and Interior Design: fashion show, duds to dazzle, and storyboard

Spring Spectacular Contests

It is time to start planning for Spring Spectacular Contests. Spring Spectacular is made up of several different contests. The county qualifying contests are typically in late February or March. District 11 Spring Spectacular will be held on April 13 and April 14 in Victoria.

If you are a senior level 4-H member or adult volunteer interested in helping lead workshops and/or practice sessions for any of the following contests/project areas please reach out to natalie.knesek@ag.tamu.edu

Quiz Bowl: This is a team event where participants work to answer trivia questions related to the contest subject matter. There are horse, livestock, and family and community health quiz bowls. To learn more go to <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/quiz/>

Consumer Decision Making: You may participate in this contest as an individual and if we have enough participants we can form teams. Participants evaluate merchandise that have similar qualities to determine the best purchase for a given situation. To learn more about consumer decision making go to <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/consumer-education/>

There are several contests related the Fashion and Interior Design Contest at Spring Spectacular. All of the details may be found at <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/fashion-interior-design/>

Fashion Show: Fashion Show is an individual event. Participants may construct or purchase their entry. Similar to food show, the participant then provides a brief presentation to a panel of judges and answers questions related to their project participation.

Storyboard: The Storyboard contest is a state level invitational contest that is submitted digitally for senior (9-12 grade) level members. In D-11, we have a contest for our junior and intermediate members that is very similar to the state contest. The exception is that the senior boards must be created digitally. Junior and Intermediate boards may be created digitally or they may be created by hand and a photo of the board is submitted. Because all aspects of the contest are completed virtually, participants do not have to attend Spring Spectacular (Jr/Int) or State Round-Up (Srs.). However, those Jr/Int. participants who enter District and are present at the District Fashion Show will be recognized for their Storyboard contributions.

Duds to Dazzle: This is a team event. Similar to food challenge, teams bring their own supply box and have fifty minutes to construct an item from a prompt and materials given. It might be a garment, accessory, etc. Each team needs a sewing machine and one person on the team must be comfortable operating a machine.

Talent Show Case: Formerly known as Share-The-Fun you may enter any of the seven categories: solo/band, vocal, instrumental, 4-H Skit, prose/poetry, choreographed routine, or variety show as an individual or with a group. For complete details for the go to https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/roundup_talent_showcase_2023.pdf.

Educational Presentations and Public Speaking: One of the most valuable skills 4-H develops in its active members is the ability to speak in front of others. Educational presentations may be up to 12 minutes (the better ones are at least seven minutes) and may use visual aids and props. Public Speaking is shorter and does not use visual aids. For complete details on both contests including educational presentation categories go to the State 4-H Round-Up page at <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/events/roundup/>

Reimbursement for Select Activities
**The reimbursement policy will be reviewed at the next County
council Meeting for the 2023 calendar year.**

The policy and reimbursement form are now available on the county website. Go to <http://counties.agrilife.org/lavaca/files/2022/01/Lavaca-County-4-H-Reimbursement-Policy-and-Forms.pdf> to access the policy and forms.

Remember, also, to read the weekly e-mails you receive from Texas 4-H as they often have opportunities that do not get mentioned in this update. This update is sent via email to all actively enrolled members and leaders. It is also posted on the county website. If you know of someone who is not receiving the updates, please have them check their Spam folders and their enrollment. Thanks!

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in any Extension activity, are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office (361)798-2221 to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made.