



# GONZALES 4-H NEWSLETTER

**Hot Topics**

2025 - August

**4-H  
Registration**

**4-H  
Open House**

**Co. Council &  
Adult Leader  
Meetings**



Gayle Bludau  
FCH/4-H Coordinator

**Stock Show  
Entry Forms**

**Validation**

**Quality Counts**

**Livestock  
Judging Teams**

**Food &  
Nutrition  
Workshops**

**2024-2025  
4-H  
Awards  
Banquet**

Office Phone: 830.672.8531  
623 N. Fair Street, Gonzales, TX 78629

## 4-H REGISTRATION

***4-H Registration starts September 1  
for 3rd graders who are 8 year old or older.***

**August 15, 2025 Begins 4th - 12 th Grade 4-H  
Registrations**

**Click here to Register**

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

## QUALITY COUNTS

This course is designed for **4-H members participating in livestock projects**. The primary objectives are to enable students to understand the relationship between good character and safe food practices and to apply knowledge regarding the ethical implications of livestock-raising decisions.

### **4-H Member Categories**

The First time course is taken - **Junior:** 3, 4, & 5 Grades

The second time course is taken - **Intermediate:** 6, 7, & 8 Grades

The third and last time course is takes - **Senior:** 9, 10, 11, & 12 Grades

**<https://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu/s/product/quality-counts/01t4x000008HBZdAAO>**

## Meetings

### COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL & ADULT LEADER



Thursday, September 18, 2025

Meetings



PACE Building



6:00 pm

**Congratulations!**

### 2025-2026 4-H T-Shirt Design Results

Ellie Irving – 1 <sup>st</sup>	\$50
Arri Martinez– 2nd	\$30
Jack Irving – 3 <sup>rd</sup>	\$20





**2025-2026**

**Gonzales**

**County 4-H Council Officers**



**President:** Jaxon Beck      \*      **Vice - President:** Elisabeth Irving

**Secretary:** Augustus Sexton      \*      **Treasurer:** Ahren Hattenbach

**Reporter:** Abigail Irving      \*      **Parliamentarian:** Audrey Thibodeaux

**District Delegates:** Elisabeth Irving, Evan Roehr and Jaxon Beck



Hey everyone!

My name is Jaxon Beck, and I am incredibly honored and excited to serve as the **Gonzales County 4-H Council President** this year! I've been actively involved in 4-H for the past 6 years, and during that time I've had the chance to dive into a variety of awesome projects—showing pigs and commercial heifers, competing in livestock judging, ag mechanics, and even giving consumer decision making a try. Each experience has challenged me, taught me something new, and reminded me how much this program has to offer.

As we head into a new 4-H year, I want to encourage all current members to stay engaged—and more importantly, I want to extend a huge welcome to anyone who's ever considered joining. 4-H is more than just projects and competitions—it's a place where you can discover your interests, meet lifelong friends, and grow as a leader.

We'll be kicking things off soon with our 4-H Open House, and I strongly encourage you to attend. Whether you're brand new or have been around the barn a few times, it's a great opportunity to meet fellow members, explore different clubs and projects, and see what 4-H has in store this year. I also want to encourage you to invite your friends to come along—after all, there's strength in numbers, and the more people who get involved, the stronger and more exciting our program becomes. Keep in mind, 4-H is more than just showing animals, so invite your friends who don't have livestock as well. All are welcome!

I'm looking forward to an awesome year with all of you. Let's work together, have fun, and make this one of the best years Gonzales County 4-H has ever seen!





## State Fair of Texas & Heart O' Texas



Entries for the State Fair of Texas & The Heart of Texas need to be turned into the Extension office by August 15.



Be sure your application meet applicable validation requirements. The schedule and handbook are posted at [bigtex.com/livestock](http://bigtex.com/livestock) and at [www.hothair.com](http://www.hothair.com)

## Livestock Judging



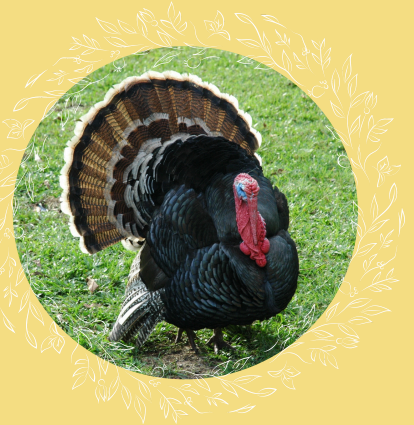
We have a group of members who participate in many youth livestock judging contests. At these contests, there are four animals in a class that are placed, consisting of cattle, swine, sheep, and goats. This program is a wonderful way for kids to build confidence and improve their decision-making skills.

They also learn about livestock production and life skills along the way. We will host livestock judging practices this Fall as time permits. If you want your child to participate in these practices and contests, please notify the Extension Office 830.672.8531 so you can stay informed.



## Major Show Turkey Order

If you are interested in showing turkeys at the major livestock shows next year, please contact the Extension Office 830.672.8531 prior to August 07, 2025 so poults can be ordered.



## Major Broiler Orders



**Deadline-September 12th** \$37.50/box of 25 chicks. All major livestock show broiler orders (**San Antonio, Houston, and Austin**) need to be ordered by September 12th .



## Major Market Goat & Lamb Breeding Goat & Sheep

If you desire to show market goats, market lambs, breeding goats or breeding sheep, wether dams or wether does at any of the major livestock shows this coming year, your projects will need to be validated and tagged on **October 14th**. In order for this to occur, you must call the AgriLife Extension office by **September 29th** to order the ear tags that will be placed in your project.





## Texas 4-H & FFA Heifer Validation

Again, this fall, there will be a major show heifer validation for any 4-H or FFA member wanting to exhibit heifers at the major livestock shows (Ft. Worth, San Antonio, Houston, Austin, Waco & Dallas). The animal ownership deadline and registration papers will need to be transferred to the exhibitor before this validation.

The heifers must be tagged, tattooed, brands recorded, and hair samples will be collected for a DNA assay. There will be a \$25 charge per heifer validated. The validation will occur on October 16th, at the Pecan Grove Vet. Clinic from 5-6:00 pm. Previously major show validated heifers do not need to be re-validated unless there is a change of ownership or breed. If you have heifers to validate, please call the Extension Office by August 27th to order your ear tags.



**This will also serve as validation for the Gonzales County Youth Show Halter Heifer Show.**

## Texas 4-H & FFA Swine Validation



All hogs that will be shown in the major shows must be validated to be eligible to participate. Validation will be held on November 20th from 5-6pm @JB Wells. To assist us with ordering validation ear tags, please contact the Extension office by September 22nd. If you do not order your tags, then you cannot show your animals later.





## **Gonzales County Youth Show Sheep, Goat, and Halter Heifer Exhibitors**

Validation for the lambs and goats will occur Tuesday, October 14, 2025  
5:00 to 6:00 pm at the JB Wells Park.

Validation for the halter heifers will occur Thursday, October 16, 2025  
5:00-6:00 pm at the Pecan Grove Vet. Clinic.

Rules for the Gonzales County Youth Show Association are available at  
<https://gonzales.agrilife.org> - Tab labeled  
**Major Texas Livestock Shows & Local Shows**



## 4-H Club Manager Training

WEDNESDAY 13 AUGUST

5-6 pm

@ PACE

Bring 4-H Binders  
those who have them.



## 2024-2025 4-H Banquet



August 10, 2025

5:30 pm



First Methodist Church  
426 Saint Paul Street-Gonzales  
Dress Code: Nice Church Attire



### ***4-H Banquet Club Responsibilities***

- *Paper Products - Sundowners*
- *Drinks - Green Clover*
- *Desserts - Shooting Sports & Robotics*
- *Chips & Pico de Gallo - Horse Project & Cost*

# Kids in the Kitchen Camp



Kick off to 2025-2026 Food Challenge



Tuesday, August 5, 2025

10 AM - 12 Noon



Extension Office, 623 Fair Street

**RSVP**

By Friday, August 1, 2025

Office number 830.672.8531



## Come & Take It Parade



To sign your child up to ride the 4-H float for the Come & Take It parade call the Extension Office 830.672.8531 by September 23rd. Child must be an approved 4-H Clover Kid or member to ride.

Leaders will have a list to verify 4-H memberships. This is done for liability reasons.

**Looking forward  
to the new  
2025-2026 4-H Year!**

# Open House



***You are  
Invited!***

**Tuesday, August 26, 2025  
@ PACE (623 N. Fair Street)  
Time: 4:30-6 pm**

**Come Learn about all these projects!**

**Ambassadors:**

**\*Health**

**\*Livestock**

**\*Photography**

**\*Stem**

**Consumer  
Decision Making**

**Duds to Dazzle**

**Food Challenge**

**Food Show**

**Goat**

**Horse**

**Leadership**

**Poultry**

**Photography**

**Public Speaking**

**Rabbit**

**Robotics**

**Share the Fun**

**Shooting Sports:**

**\*Archery**

**\*Shot Gun**

**\*Pistol**



# Food & Nutrition



<b>Aug. 1, 2025</b>	<b>Submit Entries for the State Fair and Heart of TX Food Challenge</b>
<b>Aug. 5, 2025</b>	<b>Kids in the Kitchen Camp at Pace – Come learn about Food Challenge</b>
<b>Aug. 11, 2025</b>	<b>Grill Skills Workshop at Pace 10 am</b>
<b>Sept 2, 2025</b>	<b>Deadline to enter Youth Grill Off at the Luling Foundation</b>
<b>Sept 3, 2025</b>	<b>Food Challenge Practice 4:30 at Pace – (What's New on the Scorecard!)</b>
<b>Sept. 13, 2025</b>	<b>Youth Grill Off at the Luling Foundation Farm</b>
<b>Sept. 29, 2025</b>	<b>State Fair Food Challenge Contest in Dallas</b>
<b>Sept. 29, 2025</b>	<b>Deadline to enter Guadalupe County Fair Food Challenge</b>
<b>Oct. 4, 2025</b>	<b>Heart of Texas Food Challenge Contest in Waco</b>
<b>Oct. 12, 2025</b>	<b>Guadalupe County Fair Food Challenge Contest in Seguin</b>
<b>Oct. 13, 2025</b>	<b>Deadline to enter County Food Challenge Contest in Gonzales</b>
<b>Oct. 18, 2025</b>	<b>Gonzales County Food Challenge Contest at the Pace Building</b>
<b>Nov. 1, 2025</b>	<b>Submit Entries Due for Majors (San Antonio &amp; Houston)</b> <b>(New teams are welcome to sign up for Majors in the Spring)</b>
<b>Nov. 12, 2025</b>	<b>Entries Due for the Gonzales Pecan Bake Show</b>
<b>Nov. 24, 2025</b>	<b>Pecan Bake Show at the Gonzales Chamber of Commerce</b>



# **NEW** District 10 4-H Mega Meeting – SeaWorld San Antonio

*Registration Period: August 1 (8AM) – August 8 (11:59PM)*

*Space is LIMITED to 150 Youth Registrations!!!*

**What is Mega Meeting?** District 10 4-H Mega Meeting is an event that gives youth and adults the opportunity to expand their 4-H knowledge and meet 4-H members in District 10. Additionally, County Delegates are encouraged to attend and take part in our first District 10 4-H Council meeting for the year! District 10 4-H members are encouraged to join us for the 2025 District 10 4-H Mega Meeting held Saturday, August 16th, 2025 at SeaWorld San Antonio Theme Park (10500 SeaWorld Dr, San Antonio, TX 78251). This year's Mega Meeting will feature career exploration sessions with various theme park staff & professionals!



## **WHO CAN ATTEND?**

- **Mega Meeting will be limited to incoming 3rd – 12th grade District 10 4-H members for the 2025-2026 4-H Year.** (Junior, Intermediate & Senior)
- Adult Chaperones (parents/guardians) are also welcome to this event – however due to the limited capacity of space we ask that you limit (1) chaperone per youth.
- SeaWorld San Antonio is providing us with a unique behind-the-scenes experience specifically for our District 10 4-H group. **Registration for the Mega Meeting event DOES NOT constitute as general admission into the SeaWorld San Antonio Theme Park.** Registered 4-H Members/Chaperones who register for this event will be required to stay with the Mega Meeting group & will be escorted toward a park exit following the conclusion of this event.
- Adults and youth are welcome to purchase a park admission ticket after the conclusion of the event to enjoy the theme park in the afternoon.

## **REGISTRATION INFORMATION:**

- **Registration Period:** August 1, 2025 @ 8AM – August 8, 2025, via AgriLife Register
- **Registration Link:** **EVENT LNK COMING SOON**
- **ONLY 150 youth registration slots available! \*Youth are limited to one adult chaperone per youth.**
- **ALL** 4-H youth members, parents, agents **must** register to participate in the event.
- **\*YOUTH & CHAPERONE Registration fee includes:** Admission into SeaWorld Career Exploration Workshops & lunch. DOES NOT include general admission into the theme park.

## **REGISTRATION TYPES:**

- **Youth & Chaperone Registration: \$80.00**
  - Includes Workshops & Lunches for (1) 4-H Youth Member & (1) Adult Chaperone
- **Youth ONLY Registration: \$40.00**
  - Includes Workshops & Lunch for (1) 4-H Youth Member
- **Agent/Employee ONLY Registration: \$0.00** (Only available to agents assigned to facilitate Mega Meeting – If you are attending with your own children, please select the Youth/Chaperone Registration).
  - Includes Workshops & Lunch for (1) Agent/Employee

## **LUNCH INFORMATION:**

- SeaWorld San Antonio will be facilitating the catering for our event. Lunch menu will be published prior to the event. Please note that SeaWorld San Antonio will be ordering a standard lunch for all participants and will not modify their menu for dietary restrictions. If you have dietary restrictions or allergies, we will encourage those members to bring a sack lunch.
- We highlight encourage attendees to bring their own water bottle – vendors will not be available to us on this tour.
- Items prohibited are straws (even those on juice boxes), glass containers & Styrofoam.

**FULL AGENDA  
COMING SOON!**

## **District Wide Community Service** **NEW** *Taking Place at August 16, 2025 Mega Meeting*



**Information:** This year's Mega Meeting group community service project will be "Change for Change" -> District 10 4-H will be collecting monetary donations and make a contribution to SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund: <https://swbg-conservationfund.org/donate/>

Members can bring their monetary donation to the event or donate online to participate!





# GRILL SKILLS WORKSHOP



**AUG 11 | 10-12:30**  
**GONZALES PACE BUILDING:**  
**623 N FAIR ST., GONZALES, 78629**

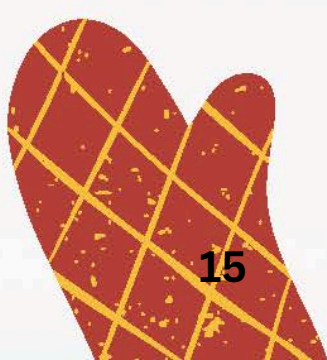

**Bring your own Old Smokey Grill if you have  
one! We'll provide the rest.**

**EDUCATIONAL FUN**  
**GRILLING 101**  
**LUNCH**



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**RSVP to Paige or Gayle:**  
Paige.Bielamowicz@ag.tamu.edu  
Gayle.Bludau@ag.tamu.edu



## SAVE THE DATES

**2025   AUGUST**



**05**

**KIDS IN THE KITCHEN CAMP**



**07**

**MAJOR SHOW TURKEY ORDERS DUE.**



**10**

**2024-2025 4-H BANQUET**



**11**

**GRILL SKILLS WORKSHOP**



**13**

**4-H CLUB MANAGER TRAINING**

**4-H REGISTRATION**



**15**

**4-12TH GRADERS 4-H REGISTRATIONS STARTS.  
STATE FAIR TEXAS & HEART O' TEXAS ENTRIES  
DUE.**



**16**

**MEGA MEETING**



**26**

**4-H OPEN HOUSE**



**27**

**MAJOR HEIFER TAG ORDERS ARE DUE.**

## **SEPTEMBER**

**4-H REGISTRATION**

**01**

**3RD GRADERS 4-H REGISTRATIONS STARTS.**



**5**

**MAJOR MARKET GOAT & LAMB BREEDING  
GOAT & SHEEP ORDERS DUE.**



**12**

**MAJOR BROILER ORDERS DUE.**



**22**

**MAJOR SWINE TAG ORDERS DUE.**



**23**

**LAST DAY TO SIGN UP TO RIDE THE COME & TAKE IT  
FLOAT.**