

# Extension At A Glance - Lubbock County

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Agriculture & Natural Resources / 4-H and Youth Development / Family and Consumer Sciences / Community Development

## MISSION

**Improving the lives of people, businesses, and communities across Texas and beyond through high-quality, relevant education.**

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1<sup>st</sup> Quarterly Report



Ethan Kitten, Slaton 4-H  
 Intermediate Details  
 Macro,  
 1<sup>st</sup> Place

### Agriculture and Natural Resources

Robert Scott, County Extension Agent - Ag and Natural Resources

- May 6<sup>th</sup> - Vector Management- This is a re-certification program that will educate personnel in cities and municipalities in the field of vector abatement on mosquitoes, ticks, flies, fleas & bugs, control tactics, trap usage, surveillance, virus testing, and mosquito control.
- **Upcoming Programs:**

June 28<sup>th</sup> - Prospective Grape Growers Workshop- Topics This program: Texas Wine Industry Overview, Site selection & Testing, Vineyard Establishment, Vineyard Management, Disease & Pest Management, Vineyard Economics, Vineyard Tour

### Horticulture

Christina Reid, County Extension Agent - Horticulture

- **Smith Sprouts** is an after-school garden club for students at Smith Elementary School. Every second and fourth Wednesday of the month of the school year, forty (40) students join us in learning how to plant seeds, care for growing plants, garden maintenance, harvesting, and cooking with produce.
- **Turf & Ornamental Workshop On February 21, 2025**  
 Agent Reid hosted the 'Turf & Ornamental Workshop' for the Lubbock County area. Sixty two (62) participants heard from a variety of speakers in the field to learn about turfgrass weed management, chemical drift minimization, new spray laws and

regulations, turfgrass management projections for 2025, and common turf and tree pests in Lubbock. Their participation earned them the required Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) continuing education units (CEU) to maintain the required licensing for chemical applications.

- **Lubbock Master Gardener Demonstration Garden**  
The Lubbock Master Gardener Association (LMGA) has completed phases three and four of the demonstration garden in the Lubbock Memorial Arboretum. The gardens new propagation greenhouse and Cermin Butterfly Garden serve as educational tools to showcase a variety of gardening techniques that community members can learn from and implement at their homes.

#### 4-H and Youth Development

Ronda Alexander, County Extension Agent - 4-H and Youth Development

- **4-H Photography Contest**  
**County** - This year, 32 4-H'ers submitted 206 photography entries for judging; 1 clover and 6 parents also submitted entries. First place senior entries advanced to the State 4-H Photography Contest and first place junior, intermediate and senior entries advanced to the District 4-H Photography contest. As usual, we will include some of the entries in each addition of the Extension At A Glance Newsletter, for you to see. Twenty-four 4-H'ers submitted 49 entries for District and 8 4-H'ers submitted 17 entries for State judging.

In the **District** 4-H Photography contest the following 4-H'ers were recognized:

Junior:

Klara-Marie Smith - Animals Wildlife - 2<sup>nd</sup> place,  
Elements of Design - 2<sup>nd</sup> place; Motion/Action - 4<sup>th</sup> place;  
Plant/Flora - 8<sup>th</sup> place;

Intermediate:

Brooks Bozeman - Animals Domestic - 3<sup>rd</sup> place,  
Long Exposure - 4<sup>th</sup> place

Bronte Bozeman - Motion/Action - 6<sup>th</sup> place

Jett Irlbeck - Details & Macro - 6<sup>th</sup> place, Nature & Landscape - 2<sup>nd</sup> place; Shadow Silhouette 3<sup>rd</sup> place;

Calyn McDonald - Food - 6<sup>th</sup> place;

Addison Crump - Theme/Abandoned - 3<sup>rd</sup> place;

Senior:

Seth Crump - Animals Wildlife - 5<sup>th</sup> place; Details & Macro - 6<sup>th</sup> place;

Kinlee Rathmann - Food - 4<sup>th</sup> place

In the **State** 4-H Photography competition for Senior 4-H'ers, Seth Crump won Best of Show in the Transportation category. The following 4-H'ers also competed in the State 4-H Photography Contest: Jayton Ayers: Animals Wildlife - red ribbon, Details & Maco - red ribbon, Motion/Action - blue ribbon; Reese Bading - Elements of Design - red ribbon, Aideen Chaloupka - Catch-All - blue ribbon, Teagan Chatfield: Animals-Domestic - blue ribbon, Plant/Flora - red ribbon, Shadow Silhouette - blue ribbon; and Seth Crump - people - blue ribbon; Rylan Messer - Enhanced - red ribbon, Leading Line - red ribbon, Dominant Color - white ribbon; and Reed Multer - Long Exposure - blue ribbon; and Jacob Racca: Landscape & Nature - blue ribbon, Reflections - red ribbon.

- **4-H Spring Contests**

As usual, we have had a busy spring with 4-H'ers competing in District 4-H Contests. Lubbock County have 4-H'ers competed in the following District Contests: Rifle, Archery, Duds to Dazzle, Storyboard, Fashion Show, Livestock Judging, Soil Judging, and Photography, Entomology and Horse Judging.

- **Texas 4-H Foundation Scholarships**

Lubbock County 4-H is also proud to recognize the four 4-H'ers who received Texas 4-H Foundation Scholarships at Texas 4-H Roundup. Each of the following 4-H'ers received \$20,000 Houston Livestock Show Scholarships:

Stone Beach, Shallowater 4-H Club

Lana Brickey, Shallowater 4-H Club

Madison Chaloupka, Wildcat 4-H Club and

Kyndra Messer, Frenship 4-H club

- **4-H Public Speaking Project**

This year we are pleased to recognize 30 4-H'ers who demonstrated their public speaking skills, competing at District 4-H Roundup. Presentation categories included: Educational presentation, speeches and the 4-H Talent Showcase which included musical, variety show, poetry/prose and choreographed routine. 4-H'ers in grades 3<sup>rd</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> were involved in this project.

- **State 4-H Roundup**

Thirty-four Lubbock County 4-H'ers qualified for and competed at State 4-H Roundup in College Station in June. The Horse Judging team placed first in each division, as well as overall. Lana Brickey was 1<sup>st</sup> High Individual, Madison Chaloupka was 3<sup>rd</sup> high individual, Cooper Campbell was 6<sup>th</sup> high individual

and Bragan Neill-White was 7<sup>th</sup> high individual. In the Fashion Show: Kyndra Messer was 1<sup>st</sup> in Natural Fibers - Wool, Brynlee Edwards was 1<sup>st</sup> in Buying - Business, and Aideen Chaloupka was 3<sup>rd</sup> in Construction - Costume. The Poultry Judging team consisting of Blaze Bozeman, Brooks Bozeman, Holt Hoelscher and Rylan Messer was 3<sup>rd</sup> overall. In the Educational Presentations category: Brynlee Edwards was 3<sup>rd</sup> in Swine, and Stone Beach was 2<sup>nd</sup> also in the Swine division; Madison Chaloupka was 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Open Division. In the Duds to Dazzle - Accessory category, the team of Kyndra Messer, Jenny Sullivan, Reese Bading and Kylee McDonald were 2<sup>nd</sup>. In the Indoor Rifle competition, Teagan Chatfield was 6<sup>th</sup> overall. Aideen Chaloupka and Mason Walker were 6<sup>th</sup> in the Health and Wellness Educational Presentation category. In Horse Quiz Bowl, Bragan Neill-White was 10<sup>th</sup> high individual; and Stone Beach was 10<sup>th</sup> high individual in Meat Judging. In the Veterinary Science Skill-A-thon, Lana Brickey was 7<sup>th</sup> overall. Other competitions with Lubbock County 4-H'ers competing were: Livestock Judging, Wool Judging, Consumer Decision-Making, Livestock Quiz Bowl, Horse Quiz Bowl, Ag Product ID, Robotics, Food Show, Public Speaking, Fashion Storyboard, Educational Presentations: Agriculture and Natural Resources and Talent Showcase: Choreographed Routine and Vocal.

- “Hatching in the Classroom”  
Through the Spring, the “Hatching in the Classroom” school curriculum enrichment program was conducted for 1,547 elementary school students who were able to learn about the life cycle by hatching eggs in their classrooms. Fifty-five classrooms from LISD, Lubbock Christian School, Lubbock-Cooper ISD, Roosevelt ISD and Christ the King Schools participated in the program.

**Urban Youth Development**  
Amber Bozeman, Extension Agent - UYD

- The *Early Childhood Path to Plate* program, led monthly by Agent Amber Bozeman of Urban Youth Development in Lubbock County, provides engaging, hands-on educational experiences for young learners. Hosted at Slaton ISD, the program reached 214 Pre-K and Kindergarten students, offering a dynamic mix of read-aloud sessions, STEM-based exploration, and interactive learning activities. This spring, the program featured a special series focused on swine, poultry, and bees, helping students understand where food comes from and how it connects to agriculture

and the environment. Through this initiative, children not only gain foundational knowledge but also develop curiosity and appreciation for the path food takes from farm to plate.



- The *Cultivate, Create, and Cook* program, implemented in partnership with Idalou ISD, brought together Agents Amber Bozeman, Walser, Reid, and Edwards to deliver a comprehensive 10-week series focused on gardening and nutrition education. Serving 86 students, the program combined classroom instruction, hands-on garden lessons, and cooking activities where students prepared recipes alongside the agents. Throughout the series, students planted and maintained six garden beds, gaining practical experience in growing their own food. The program concluded with a fun and energetic celebration that featured a blender bike, allowing students to blend smoothies using pedal power. This engaging experience not only taught students about healthy eating and sustainable practices but also inspired them to take ownership of their nutrition in an interactive and memorable way.



- **Ag Storytime** is a monthly series held in collaboration with all four City of Lubbock Libraries, offering children a fun and educational introduction to agriculture. Each session features agricultural-themed read-alouds, sparking curiosity about farming, animals, and the environment. After the story, children engage in a hands-on STEM activity that reinforces the concepts introduced in the book. This program is designed to make learning about agriculture accessible and enjoyable, fostering a connection between young learners and the world around them. With its consistent presence across the city’s libraries, *Ag Storytime* provides an enriching, interactive experience that inspires kids to explore agriculture and science in a creative and engaging way.
- **FRED – Families Reading Everyday in February** was a virtual program led by Agent Amber Bozeman, designed to encourage family reading habits and foster a love for books. Over the course of four weeks, Agent Bozeman hosted live read-aloud sessions on Facebook, bringing families together for fun, interactive storytelling. Approximately 12 families participated, keeping track of their progress using reading logs. Together, they read an impressive 1,100 books and spent over 2,500 minutes reading as a family. These reading logs helped families stay motivated and engaged, turning the program into a fun, goal-driven experience. *FRED* not only helped families bond over shared reading experiences but also reinforced the importance of daily reading routines in young children's development. Through this initiative, families created lasting memories and instilled a love for learning that will continue to grow long after February ended.

**Family and Consumer Sciences**  
Cory Edwards, County Extension Agent-Family & Community Health

● **Certified Food Manager Trainings**

Three separate Certified Food Manager courses were conducted across Lubbock County and surrounding areas:



- **Lubbock (Jan 14–15, 2025):** A two-day food manager certification course was held for seven participants. The training, valid for five years in Texas, was co-taught by Agents Edwards, Hanson, Lostroh, Snowden, and Lowe.
- **Plainview:** A specialized two-day course was conducted for 55 high school students, culminating in the ServSafe Food Manager exam.

- **Levelland:** Fifteen participants completed the two-day training and took the ServSafe certification exam.

● **TEEA Lubbock Lunch Bunch Activities**

- **January Meeting:** Held at Betty Williams’ home, three members attended a luncheon followed by a presentation titled “*Getting Your Financial House in Order.*”
- **February Meeting:** Hosted at Sugarbakers, five members attended and received a program on “*Reducing Your Risk for a Stroke*” by Carol.
- **District 2 Spring Conference (March 27, 2025, Muleshoe):** Five Lubbock members attended. Activities included a catered lunch, a craft, and a presentation on record organization by Bailey County TEEA.
- **April Meeting:** Held at The Tea Room with five attendees. Lora presented “*Foraging in a Food Forest,*” followed by a guided tour of a local food forest.



● **Professional & Community Engagements**

- **REEU Grant Seminar (Jan 24, 2025):** Agent Edwards presented to 10 Texas Tech students about AgriLife Extension and FCH opportunities through the REEU grant.
- **Partner Collaboration:** Edwards, Walser, Bozeman, and Reid met with South Plains Food Bank GRUB Farm, Guadalupe/Parkway Centers, and YWCA Lubbock to plan the Summer 2025 *Cultivate, Cook, & Create* program.
- **FCS Advisory Board Meeting (Feb 13, 2025):** Key agenda items included updates from Program Leader Molly Forman, PAC Handbook review, and planning for upcoming FCH and BLT programs. Next meeting scheduled for August 7, 2025.

● **Youth Health & Nutrition Education**

- **Learn, Grow, Eat & Go – Idalou Elementary:**
  - **Session 1:** Edwards and Walser taught 86 third graders safe knife skills and guided them in preparing and tasting a Leaf Lettuce and Strawberry Salad.
  - **Session 2:** Edwards, Walser, and Bozeman led two sessions on nutrition and food safety, where students prepared and tasted Cauliflower & Broccoli and Cheesy Broccoli Smashed Potatoes.

● **Child Passenger Safety Initiatives Car Seat Check-Up (Apr 7, 2025 – TTU Early Head Start):**

- **Stats:** 11 vehicles checked, 19 children seen, 9 car seats replaced, 3 recalled/expired seats identified, and a 97% misuse rate observed.
- **Volunteers:** A team of certified technicians assisted in safety evaluations and seat replacements.

- **Buckle Bear Program:** In partnership with Gina Rodriguez, 85 preschoolers at Eddie Robinson Early Head Start learned the importance of buckling up through an interactive session featuring Buckle Bear.

● **Community Health & Education Programs**

- **Emergency Preparedness:** Agent Edwards delivered a 1-hour session for 15 members of the Lubbock Home Day Care Association at Saint Matthew UMC.
- **Alzheimer’s Awareness:** A presentation titled “10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer’s” was delivered to 15 HHSC Foster Grandparents, focusing on early detection and care strategies.
- **Senior Nutrition Training:** Edwards trained 30 senior center directors and bookkeepers from the South Plains Association of Governments to deliver three key nutrition lessons:
  - *Health Risks of Excess Sugar Consumption*
  - *Sodium and Your Health*
  - *Understanding Dietary Fats*

**Better Living for Texans**  
 Brooke Walser, Extension Agent-Better Living for Texans

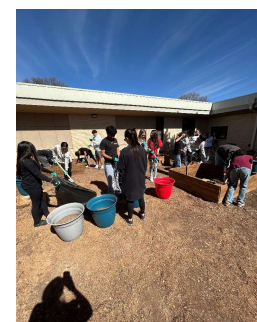
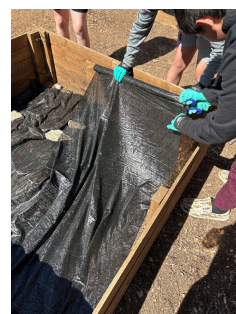
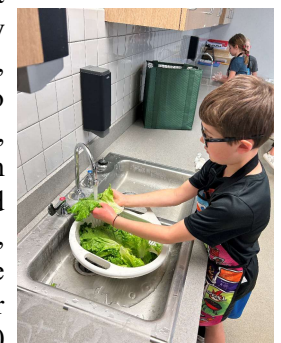
- **Walk N’ Talk** is an eight-week program that focuses on staying hydrated and reducing the intake of sugar-sweetened beverages. Agent Walser led this program at the Lubbock Dream Center’s morning walking club. The group learned new ways to enhance their water by adding fruit and vegetables, and the importance of physical activity. There were 16 graduates from this program.

There is also a fruit and vegetable version of the Walk N’ Talk program. Each week, a different fruit or vegetable is introduced to encourage increased consumption of fruits and vegetables. Agent Walser presented this program to Lubbock Adult Activity Center, and Copper Rawlings Senior Center. Together, there were 33 graduates.



- **Learn, Grow, Eat & Go! (LGEG)** is a ten-week multi-session series which includes gardening and other fun activities reinforcing healthy lifestyle choices, increasing fruit and vegetable intake, and daily physical activity. Agent Walser kicked off this program at Evans Middle School in February where they revamped their raised garden beds by adding fresh soil and planting radishes, broccoli, spinach, lettuce, and carrots. The students also learned how to make delicious and nutritious snacks like spinach quesadillas. There were 150 graduates from this program.

LGEG was also presented at Idalou Elementary School by Agents Reid, Walser, Bozeman, and Edwards. The students also planted radishes, spinach, lettuce and various herbs in rolling garden beds. They tried new vegetables like Bok Choy, and some students even made the recipes at home with their families. There were 80 graduates from this program.



- Agent Walser is a member of the Better Living for **Texans Calendar State Committee**. She has been collaborating with other committee members to create new, nutritious and yummy recipes as well as gardening and physical activity tips. In May, she traveled to College Station to help make the recipes for them to be photographed for the 2026 calendar.

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**Other**

**National Volunteer Week**

**April 2025**

- Ronda Alexander, County Extension Agent-4-H and Youth Development
- Cory Edwards, County Extension Agent-Family and Community Health
- Amber Bozeman, County Extension Agent-Urban Youth Development
- Robert Scott, County Extension Agent-Ag and Natural Resources
- Brant Baugh, County Extension Agent-Ag and Natural Resources
- Christina Reid, County Extension Agent-Horticulture

Volunteers are a vital part of Texas A&M AgriLife Extensions Service. We couldn't do what we are able to do, without volunteers. Our Master volunteers, 4-H youth and adult volunteer leaders, 4-H Youth Ambassadors and agriculture result demonstrators greatly extend the outreach efforts of the Extension Service. In 2023, approximately 831 volunteers contributed 12,944 volunteer hours to Lubbock County. The value of this service is \$34.79/hour resulting in \$433,517 given back to the residents of Lubbock County. Thanks for all that you do to help the citizens of Lubbock County.

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*Ronda Alexander*

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Ronda D. Alexander, CEA-4-H

Cory Edwards, CEA- FCH  
 Robert Scott, CEA-Ag  
 Brant Baugh, CEA-Ag  
 Christina Reid, CEA-Horticulture  
 Amber Bozeman, CEA-UYD  
 Brooke Walser, EA-BLT

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## EXTENSION

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**Christina Reid**

*CEA—HORT*

**Brant Baugh**

*CEA-AG/NR*

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*CEA-4-H & YD*

**Cory Edwards**

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The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

### Agriculture & Natural Resources

- CEA Baugh hosted a Cotton Profitability Workshop in January at the District Extension Office for 32 participants.
- In January, CEA Baugh conducted 2 podcasts on the area cotton RACE trials and the row spacing and seed population trial results. He was also involved in collecting data and completing the Lubbock Agricultural Increment Report for USDA.
- The Hub of the Plains Crop Conference and the Lawn and Ornamental Workshop was held in February for area producers, coordinated by CEA Baugh.
- CEA Reid held the annual Commercial Turf and Ornamental Workshop on February 28.
- In March, CEA Baugh will have 3 podcasts scheduled on Farm Bill Decision Making Tools, Cotton Variety Selection and Cotton Fertility Recommendations. A District-wide Crops Training is also planned for the end of March.

### Family & Community Health

- CEA Walser presented completed “Walk N’ Talk” at Lubbock Dream Center in February. This was an 8-week series teaching participants about the importance of drinking water as well as doing physical activity every day. There were 21 graduates from the series.
- “Choose Healthy” is a four-session series for middle-school-aged youth that encourages making healthier choices from the MyPlate food groups, choosing healthy drinks, and being more physically active. CEA Walser implemented this series monthly at the YWCA ending in January with 19 graduates.
- A two-day food manager training course was held by Agent Edwards and area agents in Lubbock on January 14-15, 2025 to provide a certification for area food service managers.
- CEA’s Edwards, Bozeman, Walser and Reid met with partners from the South plains Food Bank GRUB Farm, Guadalupe/Parkway Community Centers, and the YWCA of Lubbock to make plans for the Summer 2025 Cultivate, Cook and Create Nutrition and Gardening Program. This will be the 5th summer for the collaboration.
- CEA Edwards conducted the “Maintain No Gain” program from November—January 6, for 6 participants. At weekly weigh-ins, participants got to try a healthy recipe, and pick-up educational materials and healthy recipes. The group achieved an average weight loss of 4.6 pounds overall; with 67% succeeding in maintaining/losing weight or limiting weight gain to no more than 2 pounds during the holiday season.
- CEA Edwards spoke to Dr. Naima Mousstaid-Moussa’s REEU grant seminar class in January about Texas AgriLife Extension and Family Community Health as well as the opportunities available through the grant in partnership with AgriLife Extension.
- CEA Edwards met with the TEEA Lubbock Lunch Bunch in December, January and February with members conducting their regular business meetings and having program presentations by members on “Reducing Your Risk for a Stroke” and “Getting Your Financial House in Order.” Members also donated toys to “Toys for Tots.”

### 4-H & Youth Development

- CEA Bozeman continued the monthly “Ag in a Bag” Storytime at four Lubbock Public Libraries. At each session a read aloud is shared and a STEM activity is conducted for participants. Presentations on pumpkins, corn, sheep and swine reached approximately 145 youth participants.
- CEA Bozeman presented monthly “Path to Plate” presentations to 214 students at Slaton ISD.
- CEA Edwards coached three 4-H Livestock Quiz Bowl Teams in December; two Senior and one Intermediate team competed at the District Contest held at Texas Tech University. Team placings were: Senior—3rd and 5th and Intermediate—8th.
- For February and March, Lubbock County 4-H’ers have been involved in various 4-H clothing project meetings which have included touring the new “Dillard’s Department Store,” and participating in clothing construction workshops conducted by CEA Alexander to make shorts and upcycled dresses. 4-H’ers are preparing for the County 4-H Fashion Show in March and the Duds to Dazzle Competition in April.
- January started off with a great 4-H STEM project series which included weekly meetings focusing on science, technology and math. In February they have organized into 3 teams preparing for the GEAR Robotics competition to be held in April. Approximately 12 junior and intermediate 4-H’ers have been involved in the team preparations. One Senior 4-H team has also been competing in Robotics competitions at the Major Livestock Shows.
- Lubbock County 4-H Shooting Sports disciplines are in full force with weekly practices being held for rifle, archery and shot-gun. Approximately 40-50 youth are participating in the weekly practices with Certified Shooting Sports coaches.