

Kaufman County

AgriLife Extension Office

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Agent: Tommy Phillips

Livestock and Forage Programming

Phillips developed the 2024 Agricultural Increment Report. Agricultural income for Kaufman County totaled \$138,179,700, reflecting an increase of \$42,781,700 from the 2023 report.

Kaufman County assisted with the East Region AgriLife Conference, held at the Brookshire Convention Center in Tyler on January 7. Over 600 participants attended to receive their Ag or Structural Pesticide CEUs.



The Kaufman County Livestock and Forage Committee met on March 25 to review the annual Civil Rights and Affirmative Action Plans, as well as the Best Practices: Financial Management Guidelines, ensuring compliance with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension policies and procedures. Preliminary planning began for the 2025 Fall Cattleman's Conference and the 2025 County Hay Show.

Horticulture Programming

The Kaufman County Master Gardeners began their intern class for 2025 on January 8, 2025. Eight interns attend class each Wednesday morning from January 8th through April 16th. Class topics and speakers include:

Introduction to Master Gardeners and Basic Botany – *Tommy Phillips*

Soils – *Clint Perkins*, Smith County CEA

Rainwater Harvesting – *Mr. Jim Burt* – KCMG

Growing Fruits and Nuts – *Tommy Phillips*

Turf – *Tommy Phillips*

Vegetables – *Mr. Jim Burt* – KCMG

Integrated Pest Management – *Janet Hurley* – Regional IPM Specialist

Plant Pathology and Diseases – *Dr. Kevin Ong*, Director, Plant Diagnostic Laboratory

Viticulture – *Mr. Michael Cook* – Regional Viticulture Specialist

Plant Propagation – *Mrs. Nancy Szabo*

Trees – *Mr. Daniel Duncum* – District Urban Forester – Texas A&M Forest Service

Herbs – *Mrs. Nancy Szabo* – KCMG

EarthKind – *Mr. Brad Voss* – Collin Co. CEA

Landscape Design – *Ms. Brittney Meyer* – Comal Co. CEA

Volunteer Mgmt. System and Quality Internet Research – *Ms. Rebecca Morrow* – KCMG



Phillips assisted with the East Texas Fruit/Nut/Vegetable Conference at the Cross Brand Cowboy Church, Tyler, Texas, on February 7; 215 were in attendance.



Phillips presented a Gardening Program at the British Flying Museum on February 20. Sixty-five were in attendance.



UPCOMING AG/NR EVENTS:

- APRIL 9 – DISTRICT IV TCAAA MEETING – COMMERCE
- APRIL 11 – DISTRICT IV 4-H ROUNDUP – FARMERSVILLE
- APRIL 17 – DISTRICT 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS PLANNING MTG–SULPHUR SPRINGS
- APRIL 24 – PRIVATE APPLICATOR TRAINING (PESTICIDE) – EXTENSION OFFICE
- APRIL 25 & 26 – DISTRICT IV 4-H RIFLE CONTEST – TEXARKANA
- APRIL 29 – QUARTERLY REPORT – COMMISSIONERS COURT
- MAY 2 – UPPER SABINE CATTLEMAN'S CONFERENCE – GRAND SALINE
- MAY 9 – UPPER NECHES CEU CONFERENCE – CHANDLER
- MAY 14 & 15 – EAST REGION ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING – LINDALE
- MAY 20 – LIVESTOCK AND FORAGE COMMITTEE MEETING

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Agent: Carrie Sharp



4-H empowers youth to be true leaders. Through learning and leadership experiences and with the support of caring adults, youth in 4-H build the skills they need for a lifetime. These "true leaders" are youth who make and build connections with peers and adults.

4-H Livestock

78 youth participated in the five stock shows this spring: **Fort Worth, San Angelo, San Antonio, Houston, and Rodeo Austin.**

Projects shown included Breeding Rabbits, Market Hogs, Market Lambs, Breeding Sheep, Market Goats, Wether Does, Wether Dams, Breeding Heifers, Market Steers, Food Challenge, and Ag Robotics.



Youth made the auction at all five major shows.



This year, Kaufman County 4-H did pretty awesome in the Junior Shows, bringing home **21 division champions—9 of which advanced to breed champions at the shows.**

Kaufman County 4-H also **brought home over \$25,400 in scholarships, youth auctions, scramble certificates, plus more than \$3,400 in premium prize money** for their efforts in showing. But more important to me are the lessons learned and the memories made with the families and youth.

We are still waiting on premium money from the last two stock shows, but to say the least... Kaufman County was VERY WELL represented at these events.

We also hosted a Showtime Livestock Sheep/Goat Clinic for 4-H and FFA members to learn about proper selection, nutrition, and health management.



Other 4-H Projects & Activities

- Stir N Stitch (Clothing and Textiles / Food & Nutrition Projects) started the year by learning how to maintain their sewing machines, selecting a new design for the Quilts of Valor, and beginning to plan a "Sew-In."
- County Roundup – Kaufman County 4-H had 13 educational presentations or talent showcase acts, with 9 qualifying for district competitions.
- District IV 4-H Roundup – We had 5 youth participate in educational presentations, the livestock skillathon, talent showcase, Duds to Dazzle, and the vet skillathon.

Bronc Thompson – Senior – Animal Science Ed Pres – 2nd Place – QUALIFIED FOR STATE

Hannah Dreher – Senior – Animal Science Ed Pres – 3rd Place – QUALIFIED FOR STATE

Alanya Gross – Senior – STEM – 1st Place – QUALIFIED FOR STATE

Hallie Raske – Senior – Storyboard – Wearable – 1st Place – QUALIFIED FOR STATE

Intermediates and Juniors:

Lelan LeRue – Junior – Animal Science – 2nd Place

Logan LaRue – Intermediate – Animal Science – 2nd Place



- Adult Leaders met on January 21 to plan upcoming fair activities, fundraisers, and leadership opportunities.
- Assisted the Grayson County 4-H program in hosting their first Horse Skillathon contest.



4-H Curriculum Enrichment

From January to March, the **CEA and two Program Assistants conducted over 9 programs across 29 elementary schools and 210 classrooms, reaching 7,483 students.**

Programs included Hatching in the Classroom, Plant Science, Seed Germination, Entomology, Garden in a Glove, Water Cycle, Soils, Erosion, Mobile Dairy, and Texas Commodities.

Other 4-H Responsibilities

FFA Collaboration – FFA advisors and this agent met face-to-face in February to create a plan for the upcoming tag order and validation process for youth in Kaufman County participating in the Fall Major Stock Shows. This agent developed an online order form for FFA and 4-H families to help streamline the ordering process.

District Contest Support – This agent assisted with the District Food Show, District Talent Showcase, and the District IV 4-H Roundup by managing the tabulations room.

District IV 4-H Council Planning – Held four virtual meetings with the District IV 4-H Council Officers to plan Roundup, elections, and the Leadership Camp.

Farm Bureau Involvement – Serves as the Youth Committee Chair for the Farm Bureau Board of Directors. Worked with the board to secure support for 4-H Ag in the Classroom and the scholarship program. This year, the board awarded four \$1,000 scholarships to 4-H and FFA members in Kaufman County and sponsored all the buckles for the Kaufman County Junior Livestock Show.

UPCOMING 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AGENT INVOLVEMENT

MAY 3: DISTRICT LIVESTOCK JUDGING (COLLEGE STATION)

MAY 3: STIR N STITCH WORKSHOP

MAY 6: SHOW BOARD MEETING

MAY 8: DISTRICT IV 4-H COUNCIL OFFICER INTERVIEWS & ADULT LEADER MEETING

MAY 15: FARM BUREAU BOARD MEETING

MAY 17: STIR N STITCH WORKSHOP

MAY 20–21: ADMINISTRATIVE TRAINING (SAN ANTONIO)

MAY 24–26: GIRL SCOUT TWILIGHT CAMP (FAIRGROUNDS)

MAY 31: STIR N STITCH WORKSHOP

JUNE 2–5: TEXAS 4-H ROUNDUP (COLLEGE STATION)

JUNE 10–12: DISTRICT IV 4-H HORSE CAMP (GAINESVILLE)

JUNE 16–18: YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP (LONE STAR)

JUNE 20–21: SEW THE NIGHT AWAY (OVERNIGHT CAMP)

JUNE 21–22: APHA YOUTH WORLD HORSE JUDGING & SKILLATHON

JUNE 23–27: MAJOR SHOW VALIDATIONS – STEERS, HEIFERS, SHEEP & GOATS

JUNE 28: STIR N STITCH WORKSHOP

JULY 7–9: MULTI-COUNTY 4-H YOUTH CAMP (LONE STAR)

JULY 12: STIR N STITCH WORKSHOP

JULY 19–26: STATE 4-H HORSE SHOW (COLLEGE STATION)



Tommy Phillips, MS, CEA
Agriculture & Natural Resources
Email: tommy.phillips@ag.tamu.edu

Carrie L Sharp, MS, CEA
4-H Youth Development
Email: cl-sharp@tamu.edu

QUICK FACTS

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
Kaufman County
2471 N State Hwy 34
Kaufman, TX 75142
Phone: 469-376-4520
Fax: 469-595-0144

NUMBER OF TEACHING CONTACTS:
19,518
NUMBER OF PROGRAMS CONDUCTED WITH EXTENSION:
50
NUMBER OF OUTREACH CONTACTS (EMAIL, PHONE, AND
SOCIAL MEDIA):
62,213



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, gender identity, or any other classification protected by federal, state, or local law and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.