

# Extension At A Glance - Lubbock County

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service-Lubbock County • (806) 775-1740 • Fax (806) 775-1758 • <http://lubbock.agrilife.org/>  
 Physical Address: 916 Main, Suite 401 • Lubbock, TX 79401 • Mailing Address: P.O. Box 10536 • Lubbock, TX 79408

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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### In This Issue:

#### Agriculture and Natural Resources

Vector Management  
 Area Cotton Crop  
 Result Demonstrations  
 Pests

#### 4-H & Youth Development

4-H Enrollment Time  
 4-H Clover Day Camp  
 4-H Food, Fun and Fashion Workshop  
 State 4-H Roundup  
 Summertime 4-H Camps  
 District 4-H Council Officer  
 4-H Recordbook Results  
 4-H Veterinary Science Day Camp  
 Summertime Activities

#### Urban Youth Development

Early Childhood Path to Plate  
 Families Reading Every Day  
 Cultivate, Cook and Create

#### Family and Consumer Sciences

TEEA Lubbock Lunch Bunch  
 Watch UR Bac Program  
 Alzheimer's/Dementia Education Series  
 Learn, Grow, Eat & GO at Idalou Elementary  
 Food Preservation Workshop  
 Wildcat 4-H Club

Better Living for Texans Program Ended

### Agriculture and Natural Resources

Robert Scott, County Extension Agent - Ag and Natural Resources  
 Brant Baugh, County Extension Agent - Ag and Natural Resources

#### • Vector Management

On May 6<sup>th</sup> a Vector Management Workshop was held to educate municipalities and homeowners on how to control and monitor mosquitos. Attendees learned about Mosquito Identification Biology, Ecology & Biology of Vectors in Texas Vectors & Vector Borne Diseases, Integrated Mosquito Management, Calibrations & Calculations. Sonja L. Swiger, PhD, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, was the guest speaker.

#### • Area Cotton Crop

The area cotton crop in most places got off to a good start. With frequent rains, area producers were able to keep up with irrigation demand for the most part. Lubbock County did see its fair share of weather damage in May and Early June. Lubbock County lost the RACE Variety trial, Row Spacing and plant population trial and the soil amendment trial. With that said, the Southern High Plains crop could still see close to 4 million bales ginned.

#### • Result Demonstration

Recent result demonstration work involves a nematode survey across the High Plains. The Plant Pathology group wanted samples from 8 vegetable fields. Believe it or not, we sampled three tomato fields, two watermelon fields, one field of cantaloupe and one field of pumpkin, according to Agent Baugh.



Jacob Racca, Frenship 4-H  
 Sr. Landscape, 1<sup>st</sup> Place

- **Pests**

Just a heads up on recent pests that have been detected in Lubbock County. Guava nematode was found in Lubbock County on tomato plant transplants. Corn Leafhopper showed up again this year but just recently so damage was minimal. The Cotton Jassid leafhopper a pest from India has been found as far North of San Angelo. This pest was brought in on Hibiscus transplants from Florida. The Lubbock search did not find any of these leafhoppers, but our nurseries quit carrying these plants in early August.

### 4-H and Youth Development

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

- **4-H Enrollment Time**

This fall has seemed to fly by. It is time for families to enroll or re-enroll in Lubbock County 4-H. This year enrollment is online again at 4-H Online (<https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in>) Enrollment began on August 15 and is \$25 per member for 3rd-12th grade; as of November 1, the fee will go up to \$30. 4-H Clovers, (K-2nd grade) have a \$10 enrollment fee and must still register on 4-H Online. Youth who are entering 3<sup>rd</sup> grade need to wait until after September 1 before they enroll in 4-H; otherwise they will be enrolled as Clover, not as an active 4-H member. Volunteers and parents who will be involved in a volunteer role also need to enroll on 4-H Online. There is a \$10 screening fee for volunteers. Parents are not required to be screened unless they plan to have a volunteer role; enrollment for volunteers can be completed at any time. If a parent plans to attend a volunteer certification (for example - shooting sports), it does take a couple of weeks to complete the screening process and the screening must be approved before they can sign up. When enrolling in 4-H, 4-H'ers must designate one 4-H club to be enrolled in. Please contact Ronda, if you have questions about 4-H enrollment. The 4-H Clubs that will be available for this year are:

- Frenship 4-H Club
- Hub City 4-H Club
- Lubbock 3P Rifle Club
- Shallowater 4-H Club
- Slaton 4-H Club
- Wildcat 4-H Club (Idalou)
- Southside 4-H Club
- Rabbit 4-H Club
- Caprock 4-H Club
- Trinity Lions 4-H Club

You will not be able to change your club, but you can add a second club; last year only the Extension Office

was able to go back in and change your club membership.

- **4-H Clover Day Camp**

In July, Lubbock County 4-H Clovers were able to participate in the annual 4-H Clover Day Camp. Five Clover Kids (youth in grades K-2nd) participated in various workshops conducted by five Senior 4-H'ers. Activities included: learning various line dances, making fruit smoothies with the Blender Bicycle, learning about hand-washing, and making healthy snacks. Craft activities that they constructed to be entered in the South Plains Fair included: yarn dolls, seed art and leathercraft.



- **4-H Food, Fun and Fashion Workshop**

This year we were able to continue one of our favorite summer activities - the annual 4-H Food, Fun and Fashion Workshop. Fifteen 4-H'ers participated in our annual day of activities. 4-H'ers were able to learn about proper hand-washing, making smoothies and salsa with the "Blender Bicycle" and making lunch. Our afternoon activities also involved preparing entries for the South Plains Fair youth division. 4-H'ers were involved with making leather craft, yarn dolls and origami.

- **State 4-H Roundup**

This summer we were back in full swing with our annual trek to College Station for State 4-H Roundup in June. We had a total of 34 4-H'ers, 8 volunteers and 5 county extension staff attending, with youth competing in different 4-H Contests. Four 4-H'ers were also recognized with Texas 4-H Foundation Scholarships: Madison Chaloupka, Lana Brickey, Stone Beach and Kyndra Messer each received \$20,000 Houston Livestock Show Scholarships. Contests 4-H'ers were competing in included: Horse Judging, Horse Quiz Bowl, Livestock Judging, Duds to Dazzle, Fashion Show, Meat Judging, Educational Presentations, Public Speaking, Livestock Quiz Bowl, Food Show, 4-H Has Talent, Consumer Decision-Making and Family and Community Health Quiz Bowl. Brynlee Edwards also served as District 2 Representative on the State 4-H Council.

● **Summertime 4-H Camps**

4-H offers a variety of summer camps for youth to participate in. This year, District 4-H Leadership Lab was held at Ceta Canyon. Twenty-six Junior and Intermediate campers and 8 Senior counselors were able to participate in a variety of activities which included low-ropes course, sports games, team-building, and even fishing. The Texas 4-H Center also offers a variety of summer camps and they do not require 4-H membership to attend. Thirteen Senior 4-H members also attended District 4-H Power Camp in Canyon.



● **District 4-H Council Officer**

Congratulations to Lubbock County 4-H'ers Holt Hoelscher and Jayton Ayers for being elected to serve on the District 2 4-H Council. Brynlee Edwards will also serve as the District 2 Council Advisor.

● **4-H Recordbook Results**

This year, 43 4-H'ers were involved in submitting recordbooks for County, District and State Judging, as Junior, Intermediate and Senior participants. Twenty-five recordbooks competed at District Judging and 9 recordbooks advanced to State Judging. Blaze Bozeman and Kyndra Messer recordbooks placed 1<sup>st</sup> at State Qualifying them to attend the Texas 4-H Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C.

● **4-H Veterinary Science Day Camp**

This summer we had the 5<sup>th</sup> annual 4-H Veterinary Science Day Camp. This years focus was on helping youth to prepare for the Vet Science Sill-A-Thon contest that is done by both 4-H and FFA. Fifteen youth were able to participate in this years outstanding experience!



● **Summertime Activities**

This summer we had a variety of 4-H activities going on. They included a 4-H Leathercraft Workshop series, the Annual Teen Council Leadership Retreat to Colorado Springs Colorado, the Teen Council Garage Sale, various community service projects that benefitted Meals on Wheels, the Fiber Max Center for Discovery and the 4-H Clover Campaign at Tractor Supply.



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

● **Early Childhood Path to Plate**

The **Early Childhood Path to Plate** program, led monthly by agent Amber Bozeman, Urban Youth Development in Lubbock County, provides engaging, hands-on educational experiences for young learners. Now serving over 400 students across Idalou ISD and Slaton ISD, the program continues to grow, with plans to expand to an LISD campus in the fall. Hosted at Idalou and Slaton ISD, the program engages Pre-K and Kindergarten students through a dynamic mix of read-aloud sessions, STEM-based exploration, and interactive learning activities. This spring, the program focused on dairy and beef cattle, 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.

● **FRED – Families Reading Every Day at Idalou Elementary**

FRED (Families Reading Every Day) at Idalou Elementary was an exciting, month-long reading challenge led by Agent Amber Bozeman to inspire family reading and foster a lifelong love for books. The program kicked off during Idalou Elementary's Open House in August, encouraging families to set aside time each day to read together. Over the course of four fantastic weeks, 38 families participated in the challenge, logging an impressive 6,900 minutes and reading 925 books as



part of their shared learning journey. Families used reading logs to track their progress, celebrate milestones, and stay motivated throughout the month. The FRED program not only strengthened family bonds but also highlighted the power of daily reading in early childhood development. By reading together, Idalou families created lasting memories and built positive habits that will continue to support their children's love for learning long after the challenge ended.

- **Cultivate, Cook, and Create**

Cultivate, Cook and Create program, implemented in partnership with the South Plains Food Grub Farm, brought together Agents Bozeman, Walser, Reid, Edwards, and Alexander, along with the help of three Texas Tech University interns, to deliver a comprehensive 10-week series focused on gardening and nutrition education. Serving approximately 50 students, the program combined classroom instruction, hands-on garden lessons, and cooking activities where students prepared recipes alongside the agents and interns. This summer, the program partnered with the Guadalupe Parkway Centers and the YWCA of Lubbock to host a weekly summer camp, providing participants with opportunities to explore where their food comes from and how to make healthy choices. Students planted and maintained garden beds, gaining practical experience in growing their own food while learning about sustainability and nutrition. The series concluded with a fun and energetic celebration featuring a blender bike, where students blended 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.



## Family and Consumer Sciences

Cory Edwards, County Extension Agent-Family & Community Health

- **TEEA Lubbock Lunch Bunch**

The May meeting of the Lubbock Lunch Bunch TEEA group took place at Texas Tech Skyviews restaurant, followed by a tour of the Lubbock Arboretum. Christina Reid, the Lubbock Horticulture CEA, led the tour, which was attended by four members. The June 2025 meeting was held at the Italian Gardens restaurant in Lubbock, where five members attended. After lunch, a business meeting took place, where volunteer hours were submitted for the county report and plans for the state meeting were finalized. The meeting concluded with members assisting in the 4-H Quilts of Valor project at the Extension Office.

- **Watch UR BAC Program**

The Watch UR BAC program, funded by a TxDOT grant, aims to raise awareness about alcohol and drug misuse, including binge drinking, alcohol poisoning, and impaired driving. This free program is available to community groups, schools, and businesses across Texas. As part of the initiative, 125 Shallowater High School seniors participated in hands-on activities, including DUI simulations, minefield exercises, and mock sobriety tests. The program also recruited volunteers from the school to assist in running three of the stations during Shallowater's Gentex 2025 day.

- **Alzheimer's/Dementia Education Series**

In an effort to promote brain health and early detection, Agent Edwards conducted a series of free educational sessions on Alzheimer's disease. The presentations were held at various locations, including the Slaton Senior Center (15 participants), Lubbock Dream Center (21 participants), Raider Ranch Assisted Living Center (8 participants), Foster Grandparents (17 participants), and the Goodwill Resource Center (6 participants). Participants learned to recognize common signs of Alzheimer's and how to approach doctors about diagnosis and care.

- **Learn, Grow, Eat, & GO at Idalou Elementary**

The 10-week Learn, Grow, Eat & Go series was a collaborative effort between Agent Edwards, Agent Bozeman, Agent Reid, and Agent Walser, focusing on nutrition and gardening. Throughout the program, Agent Edwards worked with the other agents to provide weekly hands-on recipe demonstrations and tastings for 86 third-grade students at Idalou Elementary. Students learned about nutrients, healthy

eating, and food safety by preparing recipes such as Cheesy Broccoli and Ranch Smashed Potatoes. The recipe demos encouraged students to increase their fruit and vegetable intake by tasting the healthy recipes they helped create with produce they grew in their school garden.

- **Food Preservation Workshop**

Agent Edwards presented a "Canning Basics: Water Bath and Pressure Canning" workshop at the Veteran's Affairs Women's Conference in Lubbock on June 14, 2025. Held at the Texas Tech University Health Science Center, the session educated 25 attendees on food preservation techniques.



- **Wildcat 4-H Club**

The Wildcat 4-H Club held its monthly meeting on May 12, 2025, featuring officer reports, fundraiser updates, and upcoming event planning. Members celebrated the success of their Geranium fundraiser, which raised nearly \$2,000, and prepared for the June 7th Canine Vaccination & Wash fundraiser. They also recognized member achievements and assembled teacher goodie bags as a community service project. Club Managers Cory Edwards and Jessica Sullivan later met with officers to plan the 2025–26 4-H year, discussing new programs, service projects, and meeting responsibilities. To kick off the new year, the club hosted a swim party and cookout with a project fair and officer installation ceremony themed “Sticking Together for Success.” Wildcat 4-H teen leaders also promoted 4-H at the Idalou Elementary and Middle School Open Houses, sharing information about projects and opportunities with approximately 50 youth.

### Better Living for Texans Programming

Due to the federal legislation that occurred this summer, funding for the Better Living for Texans program was cut. This also means that Brooke Walser, our Extension Agent BLT is no longer employed with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. We will all miss Brooke and wish her well.

#### NEWSLETTER OPT-OUT

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Lubbock County Extension Staff  
 P.O. Box 10536, Lubbock, TX 79408  
 916 Main, Suite 401, Lubbock TX 79401  
 (806) 775-1740 Fax: (806) 775-1758

Ronda D. Alexander, CEA-4-H

Cory Edwards, CEA- FCH  
 Robert Scott, CEA-Ag/NR  
 Brant Baugh, CEA-Ag/NR  
 Christina Reid, CEA-Horticulture  
 Amber Bozeman, CEA-UYD

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