

300 S. LaGrange Street  
Hallettsville, TX 77964  
361-798-2221

<https://lavaca.agrilife.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/LavacaCounty4H>

## Lavaca County 4-H News

Friday, November 21, 2025



**Good Luck and Safe Travels to  
Ryan Janak as he represents Texas  
At National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, Georgia  
November 27 - December 2, 2025**

**Congratulations to Half-Moon 4-H  
Recipient of the \$1000 Acts of Kindness Community Service Grant  
From Texas 4-H Foundation and Wal-Mart!**

Lavaca County clubs had four submissions, of the 50 grants awarded across the state there was only one other D-11 recipient.

**Good Luck to all of the exhibitors at this year's Shiner Junior Livestock Show.  
Stop by and support the show if you can!**



13<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Shiner Jr.  
Livestock Show

Saturday,  
November 22, 2025  
Arthur Kaspar Pavilion

**Order of Events:**

9:00 a.m.

Show Starts

Broilers \* Cattle \* Swine \* Lambs \* Goats \* Rabbits

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Buyer's Social

7:30 p.m.

Presentation of Exhibitors/Exhibits  
& Recognition of Bidders

**Shiner Youth Thanks You for Your Support!**

### Help Needed!

Monday, November 24

**Festival of Lights**

**Goody Bags**

2:00 p.m.

County Courtroom

We need the help of all members and adults  
who can make it to stuff the goody bags for the  
Festival of Lights.

The Hallettsville Chamber will have all the  
supplies. The more help we have the quicker the  
task –500 bags!

**Come Help Support the Paper Clover Drive!**  
**Saturday, December 6, 2026**



Every year, Tractor Supply supports our Lavaca County 4-H Program by selling Paper Clovers. The money contributed comes 100% back to our County Council.

We will have a booth from 9:00 a.m. to Noon on Saturday, December 6 at the Hallettsville store. Come help sell Clovers.

Enrolled members and volunteers are needed. Please call the office to sign up for a shift. 361-798-2221. We need three youth and one adult volunteer for each shift 8:45-10:00, 10:00 – 11:00 and 11:00 – 12:15. There is fifteen minutes tacked on the beginning and end for set up and clean up.

## Livestock Validations and Orders

### HJLS Entries Due December 1

Including \$10 entry fee and project record form



#### HJLS broiler distribution

December 12

Lavaca Expo Center

\$10 validation fee will be collected from each exhibitor at distribution

#### HJLS rabbit validation

December 16

Expo Center

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.



### Upcycle Your Style Clothing Workshop

Tuesday, December 30

1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Hallettsville Youth Center

Items to bring:

- A garment or accessory to embellish (jeans, fabric hats, jackets, t-shirts, shoes, etc)
- Embellishments (trim, buttons, stones, fabric paint, etc)
- Low temp hot glue guns and glue
- a sewing machine--only if you have one that is in good condition and easy to transport

**The county sewing machines and serger, scrap fabrics, and other materials will be available, as well.**

All participants must be approved members or clover kids to attend.

All Clover Kids must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

**You must sign up by December 29th to participate.**

Call the office at 361-798-2221 to sign up.

### Photography Workshop

Monday, January 5, 2026

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Green Dickson Park, Shiner

Meet by the Tennis Courts

Open to all Approved Members and Clover Kids

Clover Kids must be accompanied by an adult

Please call the office at 361-798-2221 to let us know you will attend

And provide the email you would like a notice sent should the weather change our plans.

If the weather is inclement that day, an email will be sent to all participants by 9:00 a.m.





#### 2025-2026 Member Handbook (New QR Code)

We now have a Member Handbook that has lots of information for all members. We are not printing copies of these at the office. Instead, we hope you will use the QR code to scan it and save it somewhere that is useful to you. It displays well on a phone and can be saved to any digital device. If you picked up the QR Code that was handed out at Fun Fair, that code is no longer working. Please use the code above.

## County Council

Monday, January 5

6:00 p.m.

Extension Office Conference Room

**There will be a separate adult volunteer meeting at the same time to discuss. All clubs should have both adult and youth representation at this meeting.**

Council Finance Committee

Monday, December 22, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Extension Office Conference Room

All council members are welcome

**This meeting will be to review expenditures and create the 2026 proposed budget.**



Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodations to participate in this event are encouraged to contact the Grayson County AgriLife Extension Office for assistance, at least two weeks prior to the marketed education program. 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, The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

**Student Government in Action  
Youth Tour  
High School Sophomores and Juniors**

The last newsletter had the instructions from San Bernard Electric for those whose parents are members of the cooperative to apply for this leadership opportunity in Washington D.C. The opportunity is also available to those who have Guadalupe Valley Electric service. My understanding is that if you have accounts with both, you may apply to both organizations. Here is the link with all of the information for GVEC: <https://www.gvec.org/community/youth-tour/>  
GVEC sets aside a \$2500 scholarship for those who are selected.

[Flickr Account](#)

In an effort to share event pictures with our members, Natalie has created a Flickr Account to store albums. As albums are created, the links to the specific albums will be shared either here in this newsletter or sent directly to participants. **The links are not to be shared with others outside of our organization and the photos are only for your personal download for use in record books and personal photo albums.** Social media does a great job of telling the 4-H story but **DO NOT post** the pictures from these albums **unless you have permission from all of the people in the photos.** We have many 4-H families who for various and valid reasons have declined the media release. Please respect their wishes.

The Flickr account is a trial run to see if it could possibly be used for our county photography contest.

Links to albums:

PSA's and National 4-H Week Proclamation: <https://www.flickr.com/gp/195841551@N06/KD035w3287>

Food and Nutrition Project Workshop: <https://www.flickr.com/gp/195841551@N06/k4m5680DV7>

BBQ: <https://www.flickr.com/gp/195841551@N06/bdrE260ftR>

Big thanks to Sarah Collins for the BBQ photos!

Fun Fair: thank you to Sheila Henke and Sarah Collins for photographing the day!

<https://www.flickr.com/gp/195841551@N06/N2p60cg230>

Food Show and Food Challenge: <https://www.flickr.com/gp/195841551@N06/2pB7Wp2440>



Texas 4-H Center

# TEEN RETREAT

CAMP INTO THE NEW YEAR!

Jan. 2nd-4th \$175 Per Camper

FRESHMAN TO SENIORS IN HIGH SCHOOL

New year, new memories, and a whole lot of fun! Discover team building, leadership, and outdoor adventure through archery, kayaking, high ropes, and a color run!

REGISTRATION OPENS OCTOBER 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2025

Contact (325) 784-5482 makayla.waisereag.tamu.edu

SCAN TO REGISTER!

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is an equal opportunity employer and program provider.

Natalie hopes to take a group and other adult chaperones are welcome. The County Reimbursement policy allows for ½ the participant fee and 100% adult chaperone fee to be reimbursed. This is an opportunity to get STATE LEVEL leadership project learning experience.

Let her know if you want to attend!

## Texas 4-H Natural Resources Photography Contest

2025-2026

**REGISTRATION**  
\$10/photo

**Open to:**  
Any enrolled 4-H Member (Jr./Int./Sr.) or CEA/Program Assistant/Volunteer

**Rules to be posted on Texas 4-H Natural Resources webpages**  
\*\*Contestant does not need to be active in a Natural Resources project area\*\*

**Purpose:**  
to encourage observation within specific 4-H Natural Resources project areas and allow youth to demonstrate skills learned in the area of photography.

**Registration through 4HOnline:**  
Entries Open: December 1, 2025  
Entries Close: December 15, 2025

**\*\*IMPORTANT\*\***  
Participants will upload photos in a separate system called Submittable. Instructions and a direct link will be provided during the 4HOnline registration process.

**Categories:**  
Aquatic Science / Entomology  
Shooting Sports / Forestry  
Sportfishing / Range Science  
Hunting / Outdoor Education  
Wildlife & Fisheries  
Water Conservation & Education

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. <http://agrilifea.tamu.edu/4h/diversity/equal-opportunity-educational-programs/>

Notice this is open to all three age groups and also has an adult division! You must be enrolled to enter.

# Invitational Quiz Bowl

Family/Community Health,  
Horse, and Livestock

TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION



**Friday, January 9, 2026**

Walker County Storm Shelter  
455 State Highway 75N  
Huntsville, TX 77320

**10:30 a.m. to End**

Registrants will be emailed  
week of event with exact  
order of game time slots



- **Team competition** for Junior (3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grades) and Senior (9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grades) Divisions
- **4-person teams only, no exceptions**
- Questions taken from the Texas 4-H Reference List (<https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/quiz>)
- 4-H members enter individually through their 4-H Online profile (<https://v2.4honline.com>)
- FFA members enter team by completing form (<https://forms.office.com/r/drc1LVZCex>) and mailing a Chapter Check (Texas A&M AgriLife -D-9 4-H at 1470 William D. Fitch Parkway, College Station, TX 77845)
- **Registration Deadlines & Fees**
  - **December 3 - December 17**, \$10/4-H member and \$40/FFA Team
  - **December 18 - January 5**, \$15/4-H member and \$60/FFA Team
  - **NO on-site registrations accepted**

*Prizes will be awarded*

**Questions? Contact Kristy Titzman at 936-435-2426 or [kkcorley@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:kkcorley@ag.tamu.edu)**

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## Summer 2026

AT THE TEXAS 4-H CENTER!

Get Ready for a summer full of friends, fun, and unforgettable adventures!

**MINI CAMP**

July 1-3 | \$325  
Ages 8- 14

A perfect introduction to 4-H camping! Enjoy swimming, crafts, games, and campfires while making new friends and lasting memories.

**SPECIALTY CAMP WEEK**

July 6-10 | \$500  
Ages 8- 14

- 4-H Hunting Camp (Extra \$5 fee for Hunting Certification)
- Food Challenge Camp
- Ropes and Team Building
- Arts & Crafts Camp
- Sports & Games
- Fishing Camp
- Aperture Academy (Ages: 10-14)

**COUNTY CAMPS**

July 12-16  
July 26-30  
August 2-6

\$500  
Ages 8- 14

County Camp gives youth the chance to dive deeper into their favorite activities by choosing three focus areas—plus enjoy all the classic 4-H camp fun, from games and swimming to campfires and new friends!

**TEEN ADVENTURE CAMP**

July 19- 24 | \$600  
Ages 13-18

Teen Adventure Camp is packed with excitement and challenge—teens will build leadership skills, tackle outdoor adventures, and make lasting memories with friends!

**Holiday Special**

\$50 Dollars off each camp until January 7th, 2026

**Location: Texas 4-H Center**

Register today at:  
<https://texas4hcenter.tamu.edu/>  
Email: [makayla.waiser@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:makayla.waiser@ag.tamu.edu)  
Call: (325) 784-5482

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# Dog Project



Carolyn Honish, our dog project leader, sent out a message to those who have already expressed interest. If you would like to participate in the dog project here is the instructions that she sent out:

There are a couple of task items that will need to be completed by you.

1. Mrs. Honish has created a registration form for you all to complete: [Dog Project Registration Form](#) Please complete this form as soon as possible.

Because of the nature of this project, we will need to meet regularly for a series of training sessions. What does that mean?

Your child will be responsible for training your dog. We will do so without the use of choke chains (metal slip lead), pinch collars, or electronic shock collars. :-)

- We will meet in early January for 5-6 weeks (once a week) for basic obedience training.
  - During this time, your child will learn about the different events that will be held at the 4-H Texas Dog Show this July (specific date & location TBD).
    - Examples: Canine Good Citizen, Conformation, Rally, Tricks, etc.
- In early March, we will meet again for 5-6 weeks (once a week) to work on specific skills related to the events in which your child will compete.
- In May, we will develop a regular schedule (meet every two weeks or so) to fine tune skills so that your child/dog are ready for the Texas Dog Show in July.
- The training schedules are TBD - I'll be collecting info from the registration form on best days/times for everyone to meet. We will be training in the Hallettsville area.

2. All dogs participating need to go through the **Texas 4-H Dog Validation process**. **Validation must be complete by January 10th.**

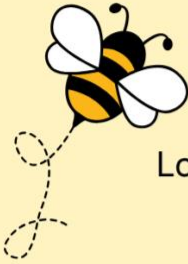
- Below are instructions on validation. Here is a video explaining the process: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eogx1Dv3WQI>
  - [Guide - New Validation](#)
  - [Guide - Renew Validation](#)
  - [Guide - Incomplete Validation](#)
  - [Guide - Delete Validation](#)
  - [Guide - Resubmit Validation](#)
  - [Validation Status](#)





## Lavaca County 4-H Beekeeping Project Info Session

Are you interested in the fascinating  
world of honey bees?



Date: December 9, 2025

Time: 6:30 p.m.



Location: County Extension Office Conference Room  
300 S. LaGrange Street, Hallettsville

Information session to answer questions

All youth must be accompanied by a parent or guardian

Project includes:

Basics of beekeeping, equipment, hive management

Importance of pollinators

Honey bee biology

Includes up-close inspections of bee hives.

And much more!

No experience necessary

Beehive and gear to be provided

Regular meetings monthly

Project commitment February-September.

Specific dates TBD



For more information, please contact:

Mark Kelnar Phone: (361) 218-8679.

[mark@lavacacountybeekeeper.com](mailto:mark@lavacacountybeekeeper.com)

Participants must be approved  
members to participate in the project.

**Half Moon 4-H will meet at 3:00 p.m on December 14 due to conflicts.**

### **Club Meeting Information**

- Hallettsville Town Rounders 4-H Club Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month at 5:00 p.m. Lillie Johnson Appelt Youth Center – Hallettsville CONTACT: Sheila Henke – 979-578-1585  
Chris Henke – 979-578-1760
- Hope 4-H Club Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month at 4:00 p.m. Hope Community Center CONTACT:  
Amy Jalufka –  
361-772-0142 Lacy Mata – 361-648-5992 Erin Marshall – 830-857-5881
- Green Leaves 4-H Club Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Lillie Johnson Appelt Youth Center –  
Hallettsville CONTACT: Karen Janak – 361-798-6898
- Lavaca River Oaks 4-H Club Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Lillie Johnson Appelt Youth Center –  
Hallettsville CONTACT: Clayton Wimberly – 361-293-8417
- Lucky H 4-H Club Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Hall of Fame Room at the K.C. Hall – Hallettsville CONTACT: Brooke Meinkowsky – 361-772-4206
- Moulton 4-H Club Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 3:45 p.m. Zion Lutheran Church CONTACT: Claudia Gonzales – 979-777-5740 Robin Stewart – 618-340-5821
- **Shiner 4-H club Meets 2nd Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. Bowman Enterprises, 724 N. Ave D, Shiner Room CONTACT: Lauren Bowman – 361-246-8015 – notice time and location change**
- Half Moon 4-H Club Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month at 6:00 p.m. United Lutheran Church of Shiner CONTACT: Stacy Miller – 512-413-8370 Jennifer Garcia – 512-878-7274
- Vysehrad 4-H Club Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month at 5:00 p.m. St. Mary's Catholic Church Pavilion CONTACT:  
Sara Lynn Opela – 361-772-0722
- Sweet Home 4-H Club Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Sweet Home Hall CONTACT:  
Christy Brosch  
– 361-772-7166
- Shooting Sports Project Group Meeting times vary Appelt's Hill Gun Club CONTACT: Phil Guenther – 979-562- 2124

**Having a club meeting, project group, or activity?** Please designate one person, adult or youth over the age of 13, to complete the survey using the QR code each time you have a meeting. This is quick and can be done before you ever leave the meeting. **This helps us tell our story to those who help fund 4-H.**



## Record Book Corner

This space is set aside to help you begin planning for your record book. The 4-H Record Book is not the same thing as what you turn in for a stock show entry. The 4-H Record Book contains all of the wonderful things you are doing and learning in 4-H and is an opportunity to demonstrate an understanding of record keeping while telling your 4-H story. In order to apply for awards on the county level, you must submit a record book. In Natalie's opinion, all 4-H members should complete a record book each year.

This section of the newsletter will feature record book information and will change from week to week until the entire book has been introduced.

You can find all of the resources at: <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/recordbooks/>

### How to Get Started:

- Put a record keeping system in place. If you are not already writing down what you do that is 4-H related –it is time you start! Get a journal, a spiral notebook, or a calendar and make it a daily habit at bedtime to write a few sentences or notes about what you did that day. Maybe you fed animals, cleaned out a pen, and attended a meeting. Make a note about how much time you spent and if you did anything community service or leadership related make sure you write it down.
- Set Goals – what do you want to learn in your project. A project is not a project unless you have six new learning experiences.
- After you have completed a learning experience, jot a few notes about what you learned, what you would do different, how you helped others, how others helped you, and anything that made the experience memorable.
- Take pictures as you go – the photos you put in your recordbook are used to demonstrate what you are doing/learning. Posing pictures are great for scrapbooks but your recordbook should catch you in action.

## Coastal Bend Classic



**All Texas 4-H and FFA members are invited to participate in the 13th Annual Coastal Bend Classic. Visit this page often to get the most up-to-date information on the event.**

**Date:** December 6, 2025

**Location:** San Patricio County Fairgrounds, Sinton, TX

**Entry/Registration Deadline:** Regular Registration – October 13 – November 28 (8pm). Late Registration – November 28 (8:01pm) – Day of event.

[2025 Coastal Bend Classic Information & Rules](#)

[2025 Coastal Bend Classic flyer](#)

[Waiver, Indemnification, Medical Treatment Authorization Form](#) (All youth must bring in or mail to the address below) youth will not be allowed to participate without a signed consent form.

Regular Registration – \$40; Late Registration – \$60

**Register through Eventbrite via the link below. (Credit Card/Debit or PayPal) [Eventbrite link](#)**

## **Project Help and the People in the Office**

Please help us in welcoming Lauren Loos to the County Extension Office. Lauren is training to be the office manager when Jennifer Steffek retires at the end of the year.

Jennifer Steffek has been the office manager for 25 years. She knows the ins and outs of everything. Do not hesitate to ask her your questions.

Natalie Knesek is the County Extension Agent-Family and Community Health and 4-H Coordinator for Lavaca County. She oversees the family and consumer sciences related activities, approves 4-H enrollments and registrations, oversees management of clubs and volunteers, and shares project responsibilities for STEM and Leadership/Citizenship with Shannon DeForest.

Shannon DeForest is the County Extension Agent -Ag and Natural Resources and oversees the projects related to both agriculture and natural resources including Shooting Sports.

Please do not hesitate to ask for help with your projects. If you go somewhere or do something 4-H related that does not require registration through 4-H online we often do not hear about it. Please be sure to tell us where you are going and what you are doing and let us know how we can support you.

### **Some Basic Information for our New Members**

Lavaca County 4-H is part of District 11 4-H.

There are 12 districts in Texas 4-H. District 11 4-H includes:

Austin, Washington, Fayette, Wharton, Jackson, Lavaca, DeWitt, Karnes, Bee, Refugio, Goliad, San Patricio, Nueces, Aransas, Colorado, Victoria, Calhoun, and Matagorda Counties.

In 4-H we have three age divisions: Junior 3rd-5th grade (and at least 8 years of age)

Intermediate 6th-8th grade

High School 9th-12th grade (until 19 years of age)

We have educational opportunities for Clover Kids as well. Clover Kids are in K-2.

**Natalie and Shannon have adjunct faculty agreements with all of the schools in Lavaca County enabling our youth to participate in events in accordance with UIL as extracurricular activities. In order to receive an excused absence, you must have pre-approval and must meet your school's guidelines and have their approval. This process begins with your request in our office. We follow the same procedures for the private schools and homeschool, as well.**

### **Reminder About Fundraising**

Clubs and 4-H project groups are required to submit the appropriate fundraising request form in advance of doing any fundraising on behalf of their local or county group. This helps us coordinate efforts and not conflict with others. We have many, many wonderful supporters of the 4-H program in Lavaca County and we want to make sure that we do not ask the same groups/businesses/etc. over and over. Please request the fundraising form from your club manager or [Natalie.knesek@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Natalie.knesek@ag.tamu.edu). This needs to be approved prior to any fundraising efforts.



There are LOTS of opportunities that do not get included in this newsletter. Make sure you are **also reading the weekly email from Texas 4-H and following Texas 4-H on social media so you do not miss out. There is just more than we can possibly keep** up with and share. If you participate in something, please send us a picture or two and let us know what you learned and what you did so we can spotlight you in this newsletter or on our Facebook.

### How to say the 4-H Motto and Pledge

**Always begin with the motto** by saying  
“In support of the 4-H club motto, ‘To make the best better’  
I pledge my **HEAD** to clearer thinking,  
My **HEART** to greater  
loyalty, My **HANDS** to  
larger service, and  
My **HEALTH** to better living,  
For my club, my community, my country, and my world.”



### The 4-H Prayer

“Help Me, O’ Lord, to live so that the world may be a little  
better because thou didst make me. Amen.”

**Reimbursement Policy –All Reimbursement Requests for the 2025 Calendar Year must be turned in to the Extension Office by December 31, 2025. Don’t forget to do the handwritten paragraph that goes along with it.**

Our county council has funds designated to reimburse youth and adult chaperones who participate in events representing Lavaca County in District and State 4-H contests and leadership workshops. The policy and form to submit for reimbursement requests is available on our county website:

<https://lavaca.agrilife.org/files/2024/01/Lavaca-County-4-H- Reimbursement-Policy-and-Forms.pdf>

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