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<https://lavaca.agrilife.org>

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

## Lavaca County 4-H News

January 17, 2026

TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION



The office will be closed on Monday in observance of Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension has changed our county website and we no longer have the capabilities we once had to create multiple pages. We are now very limited to what we can put on our county website. During Covid we created a County Council account in Band App. We have made updates to it and will be using it moving forward to share documents with you. We will continue to use the Flickr account for photos.

To join, please use the name you use on your enrollment. Parents are welcome to join for their kids; the app is set to a Kids Band so that those under 13 may join if parents so choose. You can scan the QR code or follow the link. <https://band.us/n/a8ae7fj958h3O> You will be asked to name your club and the request to join will be sent to Natalie Knesek for approval. If several days go by and you have not gotten access, email [Natalie.knesek@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Natalie.knesek@ag.tamu.edu).

The following documents have been uploaded in the app:

County Handbook  
County Photography Contest Guidelines  
County Spring Spectacular Entry Form  
2026 Approved Budget

### County Photography Contest

Access the rules in the Band App or pick up a copy in the Extension Office.

Clover, Junior, and Intermediate Entries Due Wednesday, February 4, 2026

Senior Entries Due Monday, March 23, 2026

#### Judges Needed!

If you are able to help judge either the county or district photography contest or know photographers who would be willing, please email [natalie.knesek@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:natalie.knesek@ag.tamu.edu).

Valid for : Until Thu, Sep 2, 2027, 9:29 AM



Natalie Knesek invited you to  
the Lavaca County 4-H  
Council Band.

[Band description >](#)



## 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>

Santa Bags: <https://www.flickr.com/gp/195841551@N06/0vet2tw5E0>

UpCycle Your Style Workshop: <https://www.flickr.com/gp/195841551@N06/473M94R7d3>

Gonzales Robotics Contest: <https://www.flickr.com/gp/195841551@N06/oL4z8y952N>

## Congratulations

Lavaca Ag Robotics Teams  
Gonzales Contest

4<sup>th</sup> Place Junior Team:

Bella Davis

Brianna Tilton

Easton Rothbauer

7<sup>th</sup> Place Intermediate Team:

Patrick Cinadr

Hunter Moeller

Cody Robinson

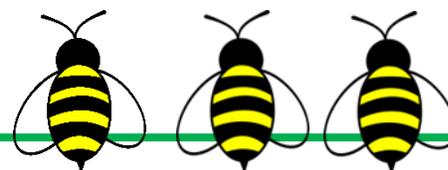
Lavaca Horse Judging Jr. Team

Brazos County Contest

3<sup>rd</sup> Place Team:

Olivia and Tate Gonzales, Beaux and Cash Porter

Olivia was the Reserve Champion in the Overall



### **Bee Project Group**

The bee project held their second informational meeting and will begin activities soon. If you are interested in participating and have not attended one of the meetings, please email [hgrandall@pvamu.edu](mailto:hgrandall@pvamu.edu).

## Attention All Livestock Exhibitors

Please make sure you check the rules and schedule for the show in which you are participating.

It is the responsibility of each 4-Her to read, understand, and follow the rules of each activity they participate in. This especially holds true for local and major livestock shows, as consequences for breaking the rules can be quite significant. Please contact the Extension Office if questions should arise.

### Medications:

4-H livestock exhibitors should be aware of the withdrawal times on medications and medicated feeds being given to show animals. Technically withdrawal time should be calculated from the time the animal arrives at the show. Please contact your veterinarian or feed dealer if there are any questions. Animals with illegal chemicals found in their system will be disqualified.

### Scales:

Lavaca County 4-H has two scales for weighing swine, lambs and goats that can be checked out. Please call the Extension Office to book a scale. Please remember when you transport the scale, it must be locked down. This keeps the cables from breaking. Also make sure you clean the scale before returning it to the 4-H building. **PLEASE NOTE: DO NOT BRING ANIMALS INTO THE 4-H BUILDING.**

### Clippers:

Lavaca County 4-H has animal clippers that can be checked out. Please call the Extension Office to book them. **Clippers are checked out without blades. It is each families responsibility to have blades for their projects.** Below is a list of suggested blades to purchase for use on the 4-H clippers

**Steers (slick shear):** Oster 83-84

**Goats:** Lister Cover Cote blades

**Lambs:** Lister 2241 Fine

**Swine:** Andis #10 blade to be used with guards

A few very important reminders regarding validation, Ethics Policy and other rules that may affect major show as well as local show exhibitors. Please reference the 2024-2025 Ethics Policy here:

<https://texasyouthlivestock.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/2024-2025-Ethics-Policy-FINAL.pdf>

**Special attention - Rule #3** which covers *continuous care* of livestock.

- ANY time livestock is out of the care of the exhibitor, parents/family, or CEA/AST for ANY amount of time, a Rule #3 Approval Form must be submitted and *approved*. This must be signed and approved by the validation committee before the livestock can be out of the care of the above listed. The form can be found here: <https://texasyouthlivestock.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Rule-3-Approval-Form.pdf>
- Excessive involvement of third-party consultants, breeders, fitters not affiliated with the Texas 4-H and/or Texas FFA programs is prohibited.

Please read **Rule #4** in its entirety! Here are a few highlights that may impact exhibitors at majors AND county shows:

- If any Texas state validated animal is exhibited and SOLD at any other major livestock show officially sanctioned by Texas state validation, the animal will be ineligible to show at any subsequent major livestock show in the animal's lifetime.
- Additionally, Texas state validated livestock offered for sale during the feeding period via private treaty, private or public auction (including terminal county livestock show auctions) will be ineligible to show at any subsequent major livestock show during the feeding period.

Additional important points:

- PLEASE check all tattoos now. If there is a problem with a tattoo, reach out to Shannon DeForest ASAP at 361-798-2221.
- If an exhibitor's heifer registration papers need to be reprinted for ANY reason, we MUST receive the new copy with a letter of explanation from the Association before the show. Otherwise, the animal will be disqualified at the show for the papers not matching what was validated.

# Show and Sale Schedule

Moulton Junior Livestock Show

2026

## **Sunday January 18, 2026:**

7:00 am to 7:30 am Weigh in Steers

7:30 am to 8:00 am Weigh in Wethers

8:00 am to 8:45 am Weigh in Barrows

8:45 am to 9:15 am Check in Broilers

11:00 am Market Broiler Show

Immediately Following  
Broiler Show Market Wether Show

12:45 pm Jr. 4-H Project Recognition

1:00 pm Market Barrow Show

Immediately Following  
Market Barrow Show Market Steer Show

## **Sunday January 18, 2026:**

6:30 – 8:00 pm Buyers Social, American Legion Hall

6:30 - 8:00 pm Premium Sale, American Legion Hall

## 2026 HALLETTSVILLE JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW SCHEDULE

### Sunday January 18th

- 1 pm - Commercial Heifer Recordbooks due to the HJLS Committee @ Test Location
- 1 pm - Commercial Heifer Test & Interviews begin @ Hallettsville HS Cafeteria
- 1 pm - Market Show and Commercial Heifer Pen Setup @ Expo Center

### Thursday January 22nd

No market or breeding livestock or poultry will move in on Thursday.  
SCALES WILL BE OPEN FROM 5:00 P. M. TO 7:00 P. M. FOR CHECK WEIGHING ONLY

### Friday January 23rd

- 7- 9am -Commercial Heifer Arrival
- 7am -Barn Open for Market & Breeding Halter Species Arrival (No Swine)
- 8 - 8:30am -Lamb Weigh & Sift
- Goat Weigh & Sift
- 8:30 - 9am -Steer Weigh & Sift
- 9 - 10:30am -Market & Breeding Swine Arrival, Weigh, Sift
- 10:30 am -All Breeding Halter Heifers must be in place
- 10:30 - 11am -Rabbit Check-in
- 11am -Commercial Heifer Judging begins (no exhibitors present)
- 11:30am -**Mandatory** Market & Comm. Heifer Exhibitor Meeting (**EVERY** individual exhibitor present)
- 12 - 1pm -Lunch Break
- 1:30pm -Broiler Check-in & Sift
- 2pm -Broiler Show & Showmanship
- 3pm -Lamb Show & Showmanship
- 4pm -Goat Show & Showmanship
- 5pm -Rabbit Show & Showmanship

### Saturday January 24th

- 10am -Commercial Heifer Awards & Auction
- 12 - 1pm -Lunch Break
- 1pm -Steer Show
- Halter Heifer Show (immediately following steer)
- Cattle Showmanship (immediately following halter heifer)
- 4pm -Market Swine Show
- Breeding Gilt Show (immediately following market swine)
- Swine Showmanship (immediately following breeding gilt)
- 11pm -Sale Order Posted

### Sunday January 25th

- 8 - 10am -Release of all Non-sale animals and Breeding Animals
- Animals not removed will be considered terminal and included in Resale Lots
- 10am -**Mandatory** Market & Comm. Heifer Exhibitor Meeting, Cleanup, Auction Setup
- 12 - 1:30pm -Market Auction Buyer's Social
- 2pm -Market Show Auction

### Monday January 26th

- 8 am -Pen Teardown - Parent volunteers encouraged to ask a Board Member for specifics!

## **STEM/Robotics Workshop**

**Saturday, February 28**

**10:00 a.m. to Noon**

**Shiner Methodist Church Activity Center**

**Please RSVP to the office by February 20**

**361-798-2221**

## **Spring Spectacular**

**Saturday, March 28**

**Please hold 1:00 p.m. -6:00 p.m.**

**Tentative Schedule is with the registration form and available in Band App. All entry forms are due in the office by Friday, March 20. In order to participate in the District Spring Spectacular on May 5-6 you must qualify on the county level, first. If you are unable to participate on the 28<sup>th</sup>, email**

**[Natalie.knesek@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Natalie.knesek@ag.tamu.edu) for an alternative time.**

### **Contests:**

**Fashion Show -individual event**

**Duds to Dazzle -team of 3-4**

**Consumer Decision Making – individual or team**

**Quiz Bowls (Horse, Livestock, and Family and Community Health) – team of 4**

**Talent Showcase – individual or groups up to 9**

**Educational Presentations – individual or teams of two**

**Storyboard – individual**

All contests will follow the District/State Guidelines.

District Guidelines: <https://d114-h.tamu.edu/district-11-4-h-spring-spectacular/>

State Guidelines: <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/events/roundup/>

Senior Level Storyboards: <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/fashion-interior-design/>

**County Council**

**Sunday, March 22, 2026**

**3:30 p.m.**

**Extension Office**

## 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.

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

**PRO TIP:** Use the Family Guide to help you! [https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/record\\_book\\_family\\_guide\\_2025\\_2026.pdf](https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/record_book_family_guide_2025_2026.pdf)

**Instead of up to three pages of photos from all your 4-H years, you now only include one page of photos from this year. Here is what the 4-H Family Guide says:**

### MY 4-H YEAR IN PHOTOS

- Each Record Book may include one page of photos that represents your 4-H year.
- Minimum of 4 photos should be included.
- Be creative in your design — use captions, layouts, or digital collages to help tell your story.
- Photos should reflect your project work, leadership roles, community service, and personal highlights in 4-H.
- The goal is to visually show your involvement and experiences, not just to display posed pictures.
- This page is separate from the written narratives and forms. It does not count toward page limits in other sections.
- Keep your layout simple and clean avoiding too much text or decorative clutter.

## Virtual Record Book Training

Tuesday, February 24

5:30 p.m – 7:00 p.m.

The training will be recorded.

The time between 6:30 and 7:00 will be set aside for questions.

You do not have to install TEAMS to join. Use the blue link below on any device.

### [Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 279 115 462 385 16

Passcode: Yh7t8i3E

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### Dial in by phone

[+1 210-807-7955,351174576#](tel:+12108077955351174576) United States, San Antonio

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 351 174 576#

Record Books along with all county award applications will be due in the office by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 12. Volunteers are needed to judge record books. Multi-county record book judging will be held on June 15 (location tbd – DeWitt, Gonzales, or Lavaca Co). District record books will be judged on July 9 in Victoria. If you are an adult volunteer able to judge at one or both contests please email [Natalie.knesek@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Natalie.knesek@ag.tamu.edu).



If you sign up for a Buc Days Contest please let us know in the office at least two weeks prior to the contest so that we may check eligibility for you. We do not see these registrations.

**BUC DAYS**  
**FOOD Show**  
THURSDAY  
MAY 7, 2026  
**\$5,000**  
in prize money awarded

**BUC DAYS**  
**PUBLIC Speaking**  
COMPETITION  
SATURDAY  
MAY 9, 2026  
**\$1,500**  
in prize money awarded

**BUC DAYS**  
**HORTICULTURE**  
Competition  
SATURDAY  
MAY 9, 2026  
**\$3,000**  
in prize money awarded

**BUC DAYS**  
**AG PRODUCT ID**  
Contest  
SATURDAY  
MAY 9, 2026  
**\$1,500**  
in prize money awarded

**BUC DAYS**  
**FOOD**  
Challenge  
FRIDAY  
MAY 8, 2026  
**\$7,500**  
in prize money awarded

**BUC DAYS**  
**LIVESTOCK**  
Quiz Bowl  
SATURDAY  
MAY 9, 2026  
**\$3,000**  
in prize money awarded

## Don't miss out!

### District 11 Leadership Lab

June 9-11  
Splashway  
(8th grade and up)

### Jr Leader Lab

July 7  
Rockport Saltwater Pavillion  
(junior and intermediate members)

## Texas 4-H Congress July 19-22

Texas 4-H Congress is a four-day mock legislative experience for 4-H members going into 9th grade – through those who just graduated 12th Grade (at the time of the event). During this time, 4-H members assume the roles of legislators, lobbyists, and press corps to gain a first-hand understanding of how the legislative process works. Bills that are written and sponsored by 4-H members focus on issues concerning Texas and Texas youth. These bills are assigned to the appropriate committee, debated in committee meetings, and then on the floor of the House or Senate. If a bill is successful in negotiation and the legislative debate in all three stages, it is delivered to the Governor of Texas 4-H Congress for his or her signature or veto. Copies of all the bills that are signed into law during Texas 4-H Congress are provided to the Office of the Governor for review.

District 11 is allotted 20 delegate spots (senators and representatives). Lavaca County is guaranteed one spot but there may be opportunity for more than one person to attend if other counties/districts do not fill their allotments. The county reimbursement policy covers 100% of the Congress registration fee once the appropriate paperwork is turned in after the event. Members interested in attending Congress need to call the Extension Office at 361-798-2221 and asked to be placed on the list for consideration.



**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 | \$500  
July 26-30 | \$500  
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

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

A question was asked whether parents have to attend summer camps at the 4-H Center. The answer is no. All summer camps at the 4-H Center are fully staffed. Parents do need to provide transportation to and from camp, but do not have to attend. During the county camps, all youth are housed with their own counties. The other camps dorm assignments are random. If you are not sure what you want to attend and do not want to go alone, Jake Good in Half Moon 4-H has registered for the County Camp session July 26-30.

## 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.**



## Project Help

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.

### People in the Office

Shannon DeForest – Ag and Natural Resources Agent

Natalie Knesek – Family and Community Health

Lauren Loos – Office Manager

Hallie Randall – 4-H Agent -Prairie View A&M – will be in the office some and has specific projects she will be working with.

### 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.”

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>