

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.

Volume 32, Issue III

2025 Third Tri-Annual (Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec)

January 2026

In This Issue:

Horticulture

Smith Sprouts
 Horticulture Building at South Plains Fair
 Homesteading in Lubbock

4-H & Youth Development

4-H Enrollment Time
 State 4-H Recordbook Winner
 Three Newest 4-H Gold Star Recipients
 Children's 4-H Barnyard at the South Plains Fair
 4-H Food and Nutrition Project
 4-H Consumer Project
 Ronda's Recap
 Big To Do in District 2
 District 4-H Food Show
 District FCH Quiz Bowl
 District Horse Quiz Bowl

Family and Consumer Sciences

Vine to Wine
 Idalou Wildcat 4-H Club
 4-H Food and Nutrition
 LGEG Recipe Demonstrations at Smith Elementary
 Certified Food Manager Training
 Nutrition Newsletters
 Idalou ISD SHAC
 Walk Across Texas!
 Texas Extension Education Association

Urban Youth Development

Walk Across Texas - Preston Smith Elementary Program
 Ag In The Bag
 Ag Storytime
 Root to Rise
 Lubbock County 4-H Livestock Quiz Bowl
 FRED (Families Reading Every Day)
 Texas Healthy Recognized School Campus Collaboration

Horticulture

Christina Reid, County Extension Agent - Horticulture

- **Smith Sprouts**

This after-school gardening club program reached 40 youth monthly in September, October, November, and December at Smith Elementary. Smith Sprouts offers a variety of hands-on learning activities to engage students in environmental stewardship, horticulture, kitchen safety, and nutrition.

- **Horticulture Building at South Plains Fair**

Agent Reid hosted the second annual Horticulture Show during the 2025 South Plains Fair. On-site plant competitions, plant swap, daily classes, and local plant-oriented non-profits worked together to greet and educate the more than 240,000 visitors to the Horticulture building.

- **Homesteading in Lubbock**

Agent Reid hosted the first annual Homesteading in Lubbock program Saturday, November 1, 2025 offering 22 participants hands-on learning on a variety of homesteading topics.

4-H and Youth Development

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

- **4-H Enrollment Time**

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>).



Jett Irlbeck
 Intermediate-Leading Line
 Hub City 4-H Club

This is the 5th year that we have had 4-H Online, not 4-H Connect. Enrollment began on August 15 and is \$25 per member for 3rd-12th grade; as of November 1, the fee went up to \$30. 4-H Clovers, (K-2nd grade) have a \$10 enrollment fee, and also need to register through 4-H Online. 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 4-H Club
- Lubbock Rabbit 4-H Club
- Shallowater 4-H Club
- Caprock 4-H Club
- Wildcat 4-H Club (Idalou)
- Southside 4-H Club
- Slaton 4-H Club

The Lubbock County Office supports over 26 4-H projects for youth to participate in through project meetings, workshops, contests and camps. Get involved today!

- **State 4-H Recordbook Winner**

This year, Lubbock County 4-H'ers had a great showing at State 4-H Recordbook Judging which was held in August. Eight Lubbock County 4-H'ers advanced to State, with Blaze Bozeman and Kyndra Messer winning first place. Those competing at State were: Blaze Bozeman, Wildcat 4-H Club - Poultry; Holt Hoelscher, Shallowater 4-H Club - Consumer; Brooks Bozeman, Wildcat 4-H Club - Swine; Josephine Butts, Southside 4-H Club - Beef; Kyndra Messer, Frenship 4-H Club - Fashion and Interior Design; Stone Beach, Shallowater 4-H Club - Public Speaking; Brynlee Edwards, Wildcat 4-H Club - Leadership and Aideen Chaloupka, Wildcat 4-H Club - Visual and Performing Arts. This year recordbooks 34 competed at District and a total of 42 were judged at the County level.

- **Three Newest 4-H Gold Star Recipients**

On October 20, three Lubbock County 4-H'ers were recognized at the District 4-H Gold Star Banquet. This year's recipients include: Rayna Jo Epley, Frenship 4-H Club Member, Jenny Sullivan - Wildcat 4-H Club Member, Aideen Chaloupka - Wildcat 4-H Club Member. Ryan Bading - Shallowater 4-H Club leader was also recognized as the Distinguished Leader for Lubbock County. Also assisting through District 4-H Council were Jayton Ayers, Holt Hoelscher and Brynlee Edwards.

- **Children's 4-H Barnyard at the South Plains Fair**

We had another great year at the Children's 4-H Barnyard at the South Plains Fair. This year 184 youth and adult volunteers manned the barnyard for 501 volunteer hours! We also had the regular barnyard animals attending and a few new exhibits which included 2 alpacas, 2 dorper cross sheep, a miniature hereford cow, 2 kune kune pigs, a ewe and baby lamb, 50 chicks, 10 sheep, 12 goats, 1 rooster and 5 hens, 8 bunnies and 2 ducks. We also had Purina Mills and HFC Feeds donate the feed for the animals and Western Hay Yard provide straw bales for decor. Hopefully everyone also saw the Path to Plate Posters highlighting information about tomatoes, beef and goats.

- **4-H Food and Nutrition Project**

This year we had a great 4-H Food and Nutrition project. The competition divisions in this project include, District 2 United Supermarkets Grilling Games, Food Challenge, Food Show and FCH Quiz Bowl. We also had workshops for 4-H'ers to participate in which included a 2 part "Cooking in the Kitchen" workshop series and 4 skills activities. For more information or to get involved, please visit the Lubbock County 4-H Facebook page or the County website at <https://lubbock.agrilife.org>.

- **4-H Consumer Project**

Helping 4-H'ers learn to manage their money and make wise spending decisions is the focus of the 4-H Consumer Decision-Making Project. Lubbock County had 20 youth in the County Consumer Decision-Making Contest; 20 youth also competed in the District Consumer Contest held on November 3 in Lubbock. .

- **Ronda's Recap**

Tune in to the Lubbock County 4-H Facebook page at the end of each month to see "Ronda's Recap" and what activities are going to be happening in the upcoming month. "Ronda's Recap" consists of

Lubbock County 4-H'er Andre Shaw, interviewing Ronda about the current month's activities and then what will happen in the following month. There may also be an occasional 4-H guest assisting with the interview!

- **Big To Do in District 2**

This year, the Big To Do in District 2 was held on November 3 and 5 in Lubbock for the all of the Fall District Contests. These contests included Food Show, Consumer Decision-Making, Horse Quiz Bowl, FCH Quiz Bowl and Livestock Quiz Bowl. Lubbock County 4-H'ers competing are listed below:

District 2 Consumer Decision-Making Participants were:

Senior - Team 1

Jayton Ayers, Holt Hoelscher, Aideen Chaloupka and Rayna Jo Epley

Senior – Team 2

Kylee McDonald, Henley Hoelscher, Rylan Messer and Kinlee Rathmann

Intermediate – Team 2

Hayden Hoelscher, Brix Edwards, Kenlie Gillman and Mason Chaloupka

Intermediate – Team 1

Marlowe Barnes, Waylon Epley, Crosby Hughes and Kaylyn Gillman

Intermediate Participant – Calyn McDonald

Junior Participant - Damon Gillman

The Senior Team 1 placed 1st at District and Team 2 placed 2nd at District; both teams qualified to compete at State 4-H Roundup in June. The Intermediate Team 2 placed 1st at District and Team 1 placed 2nd at District.

- **District 4-H Food Show**

The District 4-H Food Show was held in Lubbock on November 3 with 11 Lubbock County 4-H'ers competing. Seniors competing were: Kylee McDonald and Reese Bading - 3rd Healthy Desserts; Intermediate 4-H'ers competing were Brynn Bading - 3rd Side Dish, Andre Shaw - 2nd Healthy Desserts, Marlowe Barnes - 2nd Side Dish, Calyn McDonald and Cale Angerer. Juniors competing were Sterjess Pfeiffer, Mallory Rektenwald, Holley Payden and Chyann Angerer.

- **District FCH Quiz Bowl**

Senior 4-H'ers who competed on the FCH Quiz Bowl Team and placing 3rd were: Rylan Messer, Jayton Ayers, Holt Hoelscher and Teegan Beach.

- **District Horse Quiz Bowl**

The Senior 4-H Horse Quiz Bowl team consisting of Rayna Jo Epley, Avery Provost, Bragen Neill-White and MacKenzie Sunderman placed 1st; the Intermediate Horse Quiz Bowl team placed 1st with the team consisting of Callie Beach, Haley Phillippe, and Strauss Pfeiffer. The 1st place Junior team was Madalyn Eakin, Sturjess Pfeiffer, and Hope Shults.

Family and Consumer Sciences

Cory Edwards, County Extension Agent-Family & Community Health

- **Vine to Wine**

“Vine to Wine”, a multidisciplinary cost-recovery program sponsored by the Lubbock County Leadership Advisory Board was held on September 2, 2025 at Adelphos Cellars with 22 participants in attendance. Three LAB members supported the event, with one serving as greeter and registrar and another providing the welcome. The program educated participants on the vineyard-to-bottle wine-making process, the economic impact of the local wine industry, and current AgriLife Extension viticulture research. Participants received a winery tour, wine and cheese pairings, and presentations from winery owners and Texas A&M AgriLife viticulture specialists Cristin Kasprzak and Dr. Patrick O'Brien.

- **Idalou Wildcat 4-H Club**

Agent Edwards served as Club Manager for the Idalou Wildcat 4-H Club and led monthly meetings, enrollment efforts, leadership development, and community service activities. In September, the club recognized member achievements, formed bylaw and budget committees, and coordinated projects such as Snack Pak 4 Kids, flower bed maintenance, and disaster relief donations. In October, 40 youth and adults attended a New Member Orientation, and 27 active members were recognized and reimbursed for eligible activities. November and December meetings highlighted district contest participation and holiday service projects including pantry donations, Loads of Love, Ronald McDonald House blankets, Meals on Wheels gifts, Salvation Army bell ringing, and the Idalou Stock Show concession stand. In addition, 45 members and family volunteers participated in Christmas caroling at the Library of Legacies, providing gifts to 16 residents through a \$1,000 Texas 4-H Foundation–Walmart grant.

- **4-H Food & Nutrition**

Agent Edwards led multiple nutrition education activities for youth and families. Seventeen 4-H members participated in “Cooking in the Kitchen – Back to the Basics,” where they learned bread-making, butter-making, and the use of fresh-milled flour. Nine youth participated in a Food Truck Challenge workshop where teams prepared Toasted Ravioli, Jalapeño Popper Street Corn, and Fruit Wontons, reinforcing teamwork, food safety, and creative food presentation aligned with the Texas 4-H Food Show theme.

Agent Edwards coordinated the Lubbock County 4-H Food Challenge program by recruiting and training volunteer coaches, coaching one team, planning and facilitating the county contest, and organizing district participation. Twenty-two teams representing 70 4-H youth from Lubbock County competed in the District 2 contest in Levelland on November 4, 2025.

- **LGEG Recipe Demonstrations at Smith Elementary**

At Smith Elementary, Agent Edwards partnered with Agent Bozeman to deliver three hands-on nutrition education workshops through the Smith Sprouts after-school garden program. Forty youth prepared and tasted Cinnamon Carrot Crunch, Red Leaf Lettuce and Strawberry Salad, and Spinach Quesadillas using produce grown in their school garden and the Learn, Grow, Eat & Go! curriculum.

- **Certified Food Manager Training**

A two-day Food Manager Certification Training was held September 17–18, 2025, certifying nine food service managers. The training was co-taught by Agents Edwards, Hanson, and Lowe and provided participants with state-required food safety credentials valid for five years.

- **Nutrition Newsletters**

Agent Edwards also trained 35 senior center directors and bookkeepers from the South Plains Area Agency on Aging to deliver three nutrition education lessons to congregate meal participants, including Nutrients, Vitamins & Minerals; Smart Snacking for Seniors; and Cooking for One or Two.

- **Idalou ISD SHAC**

Agent Edwards serves on the Idalou ISD School Health Advisory Council (SHAC), where topics addressed during the reporting period included student allergen response plans, free and reduced meal access, mental health resources, male mentoring initiatives,

and compliance with Senate Bill 12 mental health requirements.

- **Walk Across Texas!**

Walk Across Texas! Lubbock County and Walk Across Texas! at Smith Elementary both launched on September 22, 2025. Lubbock County enrolled 18 teams with 115 adult participants, while Smith Elementary enrolled eight staff teams with 59 participants. Teams logged physical activity on the Howdy Health platform while receiving weekly educational emails and Facebook updates. Smith Elementary staff also received a Hydration Station kick-off. A mid-challenge Zumbathon engaged 499 students, and the December 5 Jingle Jog celebrated 476 student participants. The winning class logged more than 17,000 miles and earned the Golden Shoe Trophy. Combined, both leagues logged more than 34,000 miles, reinforcing the goal of daily physical activity as a lifelong habit.

- **Texas Extension Education Association**

The Texas Extension Education Association (TEEA) Lubbock Lunch Bunch met monthly during the reporting period. Programs included hydration education and yearbook planning, and members contributed donations to the Veterans Pantry. A local member also served as District Director and led district-level training.

Urban Youth Development
Amber Bozeman, Extension Agent - UYD

- **Walk Across Texas – Preston Smith Elementary**
Preston Smith Elementary recently completed the Walk Across Texas program, an 8-week wellness initiative that engaged 534 participants in physical activity, teamwork, and community building. The program kicked off with an exciting Cardio Drumming event, energizing participants and setting a fun, active tone for the challenge.



Midway through, a high-energy Zumba event helped keep participants motivated and on track with their mileage goals. The program wrapped up with a festive Jingle Jog, celebrating the hard work of all teams. Both adult and youth teams participated, with the



winning youth team completing over 17,000 miles. This program was a collaborative effort led by Urban Youth Development Agent Amber Bozeman and County Agents Cory Edwards and Christina Reid, emphasizing the importance of teamwork and physical fitness for the entire community.

- **Ag In The Bag**

Approximately 400 students from Smith Elementary, Carmona Harrison Elementary, Slaton ISD, Christ the King School, and Lubbock Christian School participated in Ag In Bag, a fun-filled day of hands-on agriculture learning. This engaging event—hosted by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Texas Tech Davis College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources, and the National Ranching Heritage Center—introduced students to the world of agriculture through seven interactive learning stations. Students explored corn with Texas Corn Producers, cotton with Texas Cotton Growers, livestock with the Texas Tech Livestock Judging Team, dairy cattle with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, entomology with the Texas Tech Entomology Club, ranch history with the NRHC, and range plants with TTU Natural Resources Management. Ag In Bag provided an exciting opportunity for students to learn where their food and fiber come from while connecting classroom learning to real-world agriculture. A big thank you to all the partners and volunteers who helped make this day of agricultural learning and discovery possible.



- **Ag Storytime**

Ag Storytime was a fun and engaging literacy program designed to promote both agricultural literacy and early childhood literacy through interactive learning experiences. In partnership with Idalou ISD and Slaton ISD, students participated in an age-appropriate read-aloud that introduced basic agricultural concepts while building listening and comprehension skills. The storytime experience was paired with a hands-on activity, allowing students to



actively connect the story to real-life agriculture. Through lessons focused on farm-to-table concepts, students learned how everyday foods such as corn and wheat are grown on the farm and transformed into the foods they see and eat at home. Ag Storytime provided a meaningful way to spark curiosity, encourage a love of reading, and help young learners understand where their food comes from in a fun and memorable way.

- **Root to Rise**

The Root to Rise program is a collaborative partnership with Lubbock ISD and Atkins Middle School, designed to empower and support approximately 30 selected girls through leadership development and growth mindset education. Participants apply to the program and are nominated and selected by their teachers, recognizing students with leadership potential and a desire to grow personally and academically. Root to Rise is structured as a monthly lunch-and-learn series led by Agent Amber Bozeman, providing a supportive and engaging environment where students can build confidence, develop leadership skills, and explore goal setting, self-awareness, and resilience. Through meaningful discussions and interactive activities, the program encourages girls to strengthen their voices, believe in their abilities, and develop the mindset needed to grow from their roots and rise as future leaders.

- **Lubbock County 4-H Livestock Quiz Bowl**

The Lubbock County 4-H Livestock Quiz Bowl program engaged 12 youth participants who demonstrated dedication and commitment through weekly practices focused on teamwork, critical thinking, and livestock and agricultural knowledge. After weeks of preparation, teams advanced to compete at the District 2 Livestock Quiz Bowl Contest. The Intermediate Livestock Quiz Bowl Team earned an impressive third-place finish, showcasing their strong knowledge base and collaborative skills. The Senior Livestock Quiz Bowl Team, consisting of Blaze Bozeman, Brynlee Edwards, Karter Bowen, and Brayden Mimms, achieved a first-place victory at the district level, earning the honor of representing Lubbock County at the Texas 4-H State Roundup in June. Participation in Livestock Quiz Bowl provided youth with valuable opportunities to build confidence, sharpen communication skills, and deepen their



understanding of livestock production while proudly representing Lubbock County 4-H.

● **FRED (Families Reading Every Day)**

Idalou Elementary successfully participated in the FRED – Families Reading Every Day Reading Challenge, celebrating four fantastic weeks of families building strong reading habits together. In partnership with Idalou Elementary, 38 families committed to reading every day, demonstrating a shared dedication to literacy at home. Throughout the challenge, families collectively read an impressive 6,900 minutes and completed 925 books, highlighting the power of consistent reading and family engagement. Weekly celebrations recognized student achievement, with Autumn Warden and Camylla Owens named as the week’s winners. The FRED program strengthened family connections, encouraged a love for reading, and reinforced the importance of daily literacy practices for student success.



● **Texas Healthy Recognized School Campus Collaboration**

Idalou Elementary, Preston Smith Elementary, and Stephen F. Austin Elementary are working toward being recognized as Texas Healthy School Campuses for the 2025–2026 school year through a collaborative partnership with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. All three schools are participating in three Extension-led programs that promote nutrition education, physical activity, and overall student wellness. A highlight of this initiative is Preston Smith Elementary’s participation in the Learn, Grow, Eat, Go! program, which connects classroom learning with school gardens, nutrition education, and physical activity. As part of the program, Agents Amber Bozeman and Cory Edwards provided hands-on cooking demonstrations, giving students practical skills and encouraging healthy food choices. This effort reflects a strong collaboration between Agents Bozeman,

Edwards, and Reid, emphasizing the power of school–community partnerships in creating healthier, more active, and engaged school environments.

NEWSLETTER OPT-OUT

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please contact our office to be removed from the list or email: rwilson@ag.tamu.edu. If you have anyone that would like to be added to the newsletter, also contact our office, 806-775-1740.

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 Alexander

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

Commercial products and trade names are mentioned for information purposes only. No guarantee or endorsement by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is intended or implied.

We will seek to provide reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities for any of our meetings. We request that you contact Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service - (806) 775-1740, as soon as possible to advise us of the auxiliary aid or service that you will require.