



San Patricio County

4-H NEWSLETTERS



219 N. Vineyard, Sinton, TX 78387; Phone: 361-587-3400; Fax: 361-364-6237; email: sanpatri@ag.tamu.edu

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 1

Deadline to apply for Healthy Texas Youth Ambassador

April 3 - 6

Extension Office Closed

April 6

Deadline to enter District 11 Spring Spectacular

April 13

San Patricio Extension Education Association Scholarship Due

April 15

Texas 4-H Livestock, Equine, Poultry and Water Ambassador Applications Due

April 20

A&H Show Auction Thank you Letters Due

April 24

State Fair & Heart of Texas Swine Tag Orders Due

April 27

4-H Recordbook Workshop

May 2

Multi-District Judging Contest



April 2026



Texas 4-H Horse Validation

2026 Texas 4-H Horse Validation Process opens on **March 1, 2026** on 4-H Online and will run through **April 15, 2026** at a cost of \$10 per horse. From **April 16, 2026** to **May 1, 2026** the cost increases to \$20 per horse. All horses must be validated or re-validated with payment each year, to be eligible to show at District and State 4-H Horse Shows. Horses validated last year on 4-H Online, you will need to re-activate on 4-H Online and pay for validation. Each validation must include front, right side, and left side view images. The entire horse should be included in the photo and markings should be clearly visible. If the horse is registered, a copy of the registration papers must be uploaded. These papers must list the 4-Her, parent, sibling, grandparent or legal guardian as the current owner. If the ownership is in the process of being transferred, please list "pending" in the registration number area. Uploads must be images.

Lease Horses : Official Texas 4-H Horse Lease agreement must be signed by the exhibitor, horse owner, and county extension agent. Lease period must include, at minimum, May 1st to August 31st of the current 4-H year. The lease form must be uploaded to 4HOnline at validation.

For more information and to download instructions for validating horse, go to <https://texasyouthlivestock.com/horse-validation/>.



2026 District 11 Spring Spectacular

May 5 - 6, 2026

Victoria College Emerging Technology Complex

4-H Online Registration: March 16 - April 6, 2026

For more information visit:

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

Major Show Information

Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo

January 15 - February 6, 2027

Fort Worth, Texas

www.fwssr.com

Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show

Mercedes, Texas

www.rgvls.com

San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo

February 11 - 28, 2027

San Antonio, Texas

www.sarodeo.com

State Fair of Texas

Sept 25 - Oct 18, 2026

Dallas, Texas www.bigtex.com

Heart O' Texas

October 8-18, 2026

Waco, Texas www.hotfair.com

Texas' Elite Showcase

Kerrville, Texas

www.texaseliteshowcase.com

San Angelo Stock Show

San Angelo, Texas

www.sanangelorodeo.com

Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo

March 2 - 21, 2027

Houston, Texas

www.rodeohouston.com

Star of Texas Rodeo

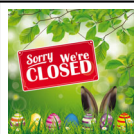
Austin, Texas

www.rodeoaustin.com

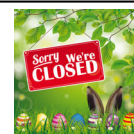


**April 12
3:30pm**

It is very important that all club presidents, council delegates and Club Representatives attend meeting!



San Patricio County Extension Office will be closed
April 3 - 6, 2026



4-H Recordbook Workshop

April 27, 2026 at 6pm

Learn how to complete your BEST Recordbook yet.

RSVP by April 10, 2026 - Space is limited.

Scan the QR Code or Call the Extension Office at 361-587-3400



2026 A&H Show Auction Thank you Letters

Deadline: April 20, 2026 by 4:30pm

Drop Off Location: San Patricio County Extension Office, 219 N.Vineyard, Sinton

Guidelines: Can be found on the A&H Show Website at <https://spacahshow.com/>

SAMPLE LETTER

Date

Buyer's Name
Address
City, State Zip Code

Dear Buyer's Name (Dear Mr. Smith or Dear Smith Corporation)

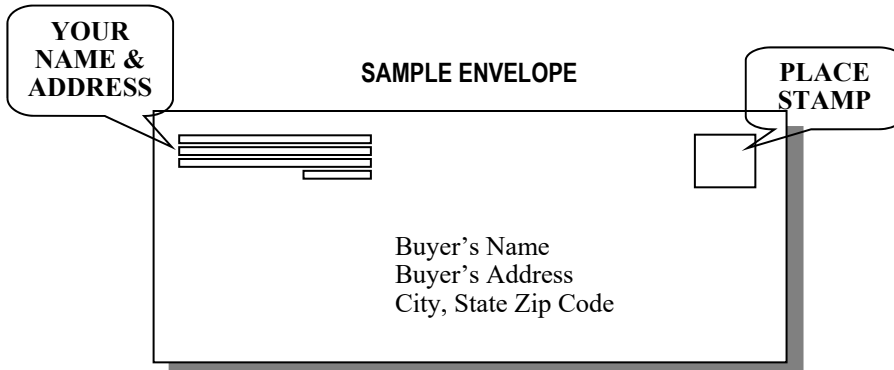
Paragraph (**Contain a minimum of 5 Sentences**) You are encouraged to personalize your letters as much as possible.

Closing (Sincerely, With appreciation, Respectfully, With sincere thanks)

Sign Your Name
Print Your Name

Meeting Schedule

- Apr 5 - Harbor Hands
- Apr 8 - Gregory-Portland
- Apr 12 - Clover T
- Apr 12 - Ingleside
- Apr 12 - Rocking O
- Apr 12 - San Pat Horse
- Apr 12 - Taft
- Apr 13 - Mathis
- Apr 14 - Wildcat
- Apr 19 - Blue Ribbon
- Apr 19 - West Sinton



2026 STATE FAIR & HEART OF TEXAS SWINE TAGS

Deadline: April 24, 2026

\$27 per swine

Tags are for State Fair & Heart Of Texas ONLY!

Late & Replacement tags \$30 per tag

Other Major Show Tag Orders will be at a later date





2026 Beekeeping Essay Contest

Deadline: April 12, 2026

Submission is online through 4-H Online

2026 Essay Topic: **The Power of Pollen!**



Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc. announced their 2026 4-H Beekeeping Essay Topic. 4-H members do not have to have a bee project to participate in the essay contest. For this essay, a 4-H student should answer these questions: How is pollen important to bees? Has pollen been changing in plants and in our landscapes? If so, are those changes affecting bees? When do you observe the most and least pollen in your colonies and how does that impact their temperament and productivity? Winners will be announced the week of April 27th.

For more information visit the following website and click "Beekeeping Essay" under Contest tab
<https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/entomology/>

2026 Texas 4-H Livestock, Equine & Poultry Ambassadors

Application Deadline: April 15, 2026

Application Process: Visit www.texasyouthlivestock.com. Complete the application. A selection committee will review the applications & accept up to 25 participants per short course.

Selection Criteria: Sr level (grades 9-12) 4-H youth that have exhibited a superior level of ambition regarding his/her livestock/equine/poultry projects. Students with a profound interest in animal/equine/poultry science, animal production & advocacy, and have shown advanced leadership qualities & willingness to help others. Top 25% class rank.

Program Fees: \$450 - includes all branded apparel, meals, lodging, & traveling during the short course.

Program Dates: If selected you will have to attend the Short Course. Equine Ambassador dates - June 8 - 11, 2026. Poultry Ambassador dates: June 22 - 25, 2026. Livestock Ambassador dates: June 15 - 18, 2026, July 13 - 16, 2026 or July 20 - 23, 2026.

For more information: Contact Kelley Ranly at Kelley.ranly@ag.tamu.edu

Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors Applications

Deadline to Apply: April 15, 2026

Eligibility: Must be 14 years old or older by September 1, 2026 and entering the 9th - 12th grade for the 2026 - 2027 school year. Must be or become a 4-H Member. If accepted, applicants must pay \$300 membership fee by June 1, 2026.

Leadership Academics: Session 1 - Tier I 4-H2O Leadership Academy (June 7 - 12, 2026). Session 2 - Tier I 4-H2O Leadership Academy (June 14 - June 18, 2026). Youth will be assigned to only one session.

To Apply visit: texas4hwaterambassadors.com

Contact: david.smith@ag.tamu.edu for any questions

District 11 Horse Show

May 27 - 28, 2026

Brackenridge Event Center, Edna, Texas

Registration: April 20 - May 8 via 4-H Online

Fee: \$20 management fee per exhibitor & \$20 per class

There are two Youth registration selections, "Youth" and "Youth (Additional Entry)". Every participant must select "Youth". If a participant is entering more than one horse, they need to select "Youth (Additional Entry)" for each additional horse.

Texas 4-H Horse Show Rules can be found at <https://d114-h.tamu.edu/events-and-contests/horse-show/>





TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

2026 States' 4-H International Exchange Program

HOST TODAY!

13 Japanese Delegates seeking placement!

HOSTING DETAILS & REQUIREMENTS

- **Hosting Period:** July 21 - August 16, 2026
- Host a youth aged 12-18 (majority are 12-14) or an adult chaperone.
- You must have a child of the same gender & within 4 yrs. of age of the hosted youth. (Children aged 9+ are eligible to host)
- Families without children of the appropriate age may host an adult chaperone.
- Youth have a range of English language abilities, so host families should be prepared to communicate imaginatively.

HOW TO APPLY:

- Eligible Families must submit an application: <https://www.states4hexchange.org/apply/host/>
- Note: Host family selection is dependent on completion of an application & screening process, as well as student availability & personality compatibility.
- This is a voluntary program; no stipends will be provided.
- Questions? Contact your Texas Inbound Coordinator:
 - Natalie.Cervantes@ag.tamu.edu

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
- Refashion
- 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!



Early Bird Special

\$25 Dollars off each camp until March 15th, 2026



Location: Texas 4-H Center

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

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

JUNE 15-19 2026

EXPLORE Texas Panhandle Mission

TO PROVIDE HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE CAREER AND LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES IN A DIVERSE GLOBAL ECONOMY AS WELL AS LEARN ABOUT POST-SECONDARY DEGREE INSTITUTIONS ACROSS TEXAS



CORE
Career Opportunities Reflecting Excellence

Participants that are not selected for the 2026 CORE Academy will be refunded their \$250. Once selected, payments will not be refunded.

\$250 With Application

Includes

- 5 Day/4 Nights Exploration
- Hotel
- Meals
- Transportation

April 15th

Registration Deadline

Payment **MUST** be Submitted

GOALS

Experiences in

- Higher Education
- Career Choices
- Teambuilding
- Networking

Register NOW

CLICK HERE



Questions Please Contact


Kara Spangler
Kara.spangler@ag.tamu.edu
830-796-7755

Jennifer Smith
Jennifer.Smith@ag.tamu.edu
830-257-6568

PenPal for Conservation program between Texas 4-H and the Mbakaou Wildlife Education Center (MWEC).

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

Texas 4-H youth are invited to join the PenPal for Conservation Exchange! Youth in grades 6-12 will connect with students at the Mbakaou Wildlife Education Center in Cameroon, Africa, by sharing letters, drawings, photos, and reflections about daily life, culture, and conservation. This global project promotes cultural exchange, environmental awareness, and meaningful connections between youth in Texas and Cameroon.



How to Participate

- **February 3 – Recruitment Begins**
- **Forty (40) Texas 4-H youth will be recruited and paired with youth from Cameroon.** WhatsApp and Zoom will serve as the primary communication platforms for the exchange and will include Texas youth, Cameroon youth, and a designated adult educator in each monitored group.
- **February–May – PenPal Exchange Activities**
- **March 16 – Participant Recruitment**
- **March 30 – Youth Pairs Assigned**
- **April 1 – Program Kickoff and Orientation**
- **Group Zoom Engagements (10:00 AM CST / 5:00 PM Cameroon)**
- **April 4**
- **May 2**
- **June 6**
- **July 4 or 11**
- **August 1**
- **August 15 – Final Reflection**

Participants will share letters, artwork, photos, and short videos through teacher-moderated WhatsApp groups. Monthly discussions and guided reflections during club meetings and Zoom sessions will focus on culture, conservation, and environmental practices.

Pen Pal Letter



Hello! My name is Cindy, and I live in Texas, USA! I'm really happy to be your pen pal. @ the part of 4-H which teaches us about leadership, science, animals, and taking care of the environment. 🌱

About Texas: I learned that Texas is the largest state in the US. I like to go to the state fair. 🎪

Animals I Want to Learn About: I like to learn about animals. 🐘

My Hobbies: I like to draw, play outside, and read. 📖

My Friends: I have many friends. 🤝

For more information: darlene.locke@ag.tamu.edu

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

2026 San Patricio Extension Education Association Scholarship

Deadline to Apply: April 13, 2026

Eligibility & Requirements:

1. Any active member of a San Patricio County 4-H Club, FFA, or FCCLA chapter who is a current graduating senior
2. High School Transcript request - signed by school official (principal or counselor) with school seal
3. ACT / SAT scores: SAT and/or ACT scores must be included with the application & transcript
4. Only completed applications will be accepted on or before **April 13, 2026**
5. One (1) wallet size, photo (head & shoulders with name & club on back) photo will **not** be returned
6. Attach letters of recommendation from the following individuals
 - ⇒ A prominent person in the community; and
 - ⇒ Your Organization leader; and
 - ⇒ Your High School Principal or Counselor



Applications and complete list of eligibility and requirements are available at the Extension Office

2026 San Patricio County \$1,000 Crops Committee Scholarship

Deadline: May 8, 2026

The San Patricio County Crops Committee is an organization of row crop producers and affiliated agricultural professionals.

Eligibility & Requirements:

- * Applicants should be from San Patricio County and have a desire to work in agriculture following graduation
- * Applicants must be a 2025-2026 graduating high school senior or currently enrolled and attending a University, College, or Technical school
- * Applicants must include an official high school or college transcript
- * Recipient will be expected to attend the San Patricio County Crop Tour on **June 2, 2026**, to receive the award and must be willing to introduce themselves to the group.
- * Scholarship recipient will be decided and informed on the 4th week of May.
- * Submit applications to San Patricio County AgriLife Extension Office, 219 N. Vineyard, Sinton

Applications are available at the Extension Office

BUC Days Contests

Check out the 4-H contests at BUC Days this year! Registration closes April 1, 2026, except for Horticulture, which closes March 2, 2026. This year, Buc Days will award over \$90,000 in prize money and scholarships across competitions.

To learn more about BUC Days or the contest scan the QR Code or contact Cheryl Handy

BUC DAYS

PUBLIC

Speaking

COMPETITION

\$30 Entry Fee
Junior and Senior Division

SATURDAY
MAY 9, 2026

\$1,500

in prize money
awarded

BUC DAYS

FOOD

Challenge

HEB
Helping Here

\$75 Entry Fee per team
Junior, Intermediate, and Senior Divisions

FRIDAY
MAY 8, 2026

\$7,500

in prize money
awarded

BUC DAYS

FOOD

Show

\$30 Entry Fee
Junior, Intermediate, & Senior Divisions

THURSDAY
MAY 7, 2026

\$5,000

in prize money
awarded

Helpful Links:

Texas 4-H Website

<http://texas4-H.tamu.edu/>

Register for 4-H

<http://texas.4honline.com>

San Patricio County Website

<http://sanpatricio.agrilife.org>

District 11

<http://d114-h.tamu.edu/>

San Pat/Aransas A&H Show

<http://sanpatahshow.com/>

Online 4-H Record book

<http://4hreports.com/>

4-H Mall

<http://4-Hmall.org/>



To be eligible to compete in the A&H Show in any division, (including Homemaking) you must attend at least 60% of club meetings. Attendance for the 2026 Show starts in January, 2025. You must also meet **UIL academic eligibility requirements** by passing all of your classes. Start out the 4-H year right by attending club meetings and keeping your grades up!

New 4-H members must also attend 60% of their club meeting, however, their club attendance begins on Sept. 1, 2025. Only new 4-H members will be allowed to count January 2026 attendance.



Like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram! Feel free to share any pictures you have of you or your fellow 4-Hers in action!



If your address changes,
PLEASE correct it on 4-H Online:
<http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/>



The address needs to be corrected on the family profile AND in each individual's profile. The labels for the newsletter and other miscellaneous mailings are generated by the information entered by you or your family. Don't risk missing out on the monthly 4-H newsletter or other important mailings!



Reminder:

If your animal loses its validation tag, call the Extension Office ASAP with the tag number so that a replacement can be ordered.

ADULT VOLUNTEER BACKGROUND CHECK

To protect our 4-H members, the Texas 4-H Program administers an adult screening program. This screening is conducted every 3 years. All adults who will be working directly with youth (other than their own children) must complete the adult registration form on 4-H Online to be screened. Once their registration has been approved from the State office, then we can certify those adults as San Patricio County volunteers. Only those adults who have been screened and cleared through YPS will have the privilege of working with 4-H members. There is a \$10 annual fee for each adult who will be a Volunteer. This fee is paid on 4-H Online.



April 2026



Sun

Mon



Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

| | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|----|--|----|---------------------------------------|----|
| | | | 1  | 2 | 3 CLOSED | 4 |
| 5  | 6 CLOSED | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 4-H Council Meeting | 13 | 14 | 15 Texas 4-H Horse Validation Deadline | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 A&H Show Thank you Letters Due | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 State Fair & HOT Swine Tags Due | 25 |
| 26 | 27 Recordbook Workshop | 28 | 29 | 30 | | |

TEXAS 4-H AGE CATEGORIES (9-1-25 through 8-31-26)

Clover Kids: Kinder through 2nd grade

Juniors: 3rd - 5th grade as of Sept. 1, 2025

Intermediates: 6th - 8th grade as of Sept. 1, 2025

Seniors: 9th - 12th grade as of Sept. 1, 2025



UPCOMING EVENTS

May 2026

- 2: Multi-District Judging Contest
- 5-6: District 11 Spring Spectacular
- 7-9: Buc Days Contests
- 8: San Patricio Crops Scholarship Deadline
- 27-28: District 11 Horse Show

May 2026

- 2: Multi-District Judging Contest