

Clay County 4-H Family Guide 2022-2023



18 U.S.C. 707

CLAY COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

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4-H Resource Website: <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/>



4-H GROWS HERE

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WELCOME TO CLAY COUNTY 4-H

4-H is the youth development organization of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Our purpose is to provide young people the opportunity to learn and develop life skills through hands on learning experiences. Young people are OUR future, so we want to make every effort to extend the wealth of knowledge and learning experiences available through the Land Grant University System. AgriLife Extension is part of the Texas A&M University System with cooperation of local Commissioner Courts.

The 4-H Program has opportunities to offer all youth including both urban and rural communities. 4-H members participate in many activities which can include everything from aerospace to showing livestock.

With so many 4-H projects and activities available, many new members do not understand the overall process. We hope that this will be a quick reference guide for you to use and make your 4-H experience more enjoyable.

4-H Is A Family Affair. 4-H members select various projects with help of their parents and Extension Staff. The parents, project leaders, and County Extension Agents then advise, counsel, and assist the 4-H member in taking care of, constructing, or being involved in the project.

We look forward to your participation in the Clay County 4-H program.



4-H IS...

Learning by doing, and is available to all boys and girls, 8 years old and in the 3rd grade through 18 years old as of August 31st of each year, from urban, suburban, and rural areas. First, an adult leader brings together youth that have common interests. Second, the youth choose one or more projects. Projects are chosen from over thirty project areas offered. Third, the group enrolls as a club, and forth, meets together to learn and have FUN. Clubs are able to explore 4-H activities, events, and trips. In 4-H, there are events happening all year round.

4-H SLOGAN

Learn by Doing

4-H MOTTO

To Make the Best Better

4-H PLEDGE

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, my HEALTH to better living, for my CLUB, my COMMUNITY, my COUNTRY, and my WORLD.

4-H PARENT PLEDGE

I pledge my HEAD to give my child the information I can, to help him/her see things clearly, and to make wise decisions.
I pledge my HEART to encourage and support my child no matter whether he/she has successes or disappointments.
I pledge my HANDS to help my child's club; if I cannot be a leader, I can help in many equally important ways.
I pledge my HEALTH to keep my child strong and well for a better world, through 4-H, for my child's club, our community, our country, and our world.

Mission Statement:

Prepare youth to meet the challenges of childhood, adolescence, and adulthood, through a coordinated, long-term, progressive series of educational experiences that enhance life skills and develop social, emotional, physical, and cognitive competencies.



Provisions from the Americans with Disability Act will be considered when planning educational programs and activities. Please notify the Clay County Extension Office if you plan on attending an Extension Education Program and need specialized services.

4-H CLUB INFORMATION

Please Note: You participate in 4-H by attending a club or project meeting. A club or project leader will NOT reach out to you because you enroll online. Club and project information is obtained by attending the meetings listed below.



Clay County Clubs

Henrietta 4-H Club

Leaders: Sara Holcombe - (940)867-7394
and Genna Jennings - (325)456-5504

Petrolia 4-H Club

Leader: Danielle Hensley - (940)229-4413

Clay County 4-H Horse Club

Leader: Justin Hensley

Call the Extension office for times and places - (940)538-5042

Clay County 4-H Shooting Sports Club

Coordinator: Boyce Seigler - (940)538-4724

Shotgun Leader: Sara Cassaday - (940)782-8656

Rifle & Pistol Leaders: Boyce & Lisa Seigler - (940)538-4724

Call the club leader or the Extension office (940-538-5042) for more information.

All parents and 4-H members are welcome at all meetings.

Clay County Extension Staff

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WEBSITE

<https://clay.agrilife.org/>



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THE COMMUNICATION METHODS FOR CLAY COUNTY 4-H

READ OUR EMAILS TO STAY INFORMED

Clay County 4-H has close to 150 members, making email the most efficient way to communicate with our members. Please make sure your email address is on file with Kristin Lennon, at the Extension office, and is correct in your 4-H Online enrollment. All 4-H communication will come from kristin.lennon@ag.tamu.edu, cindy.dunkerley@ag.tamu.edu or bill.holcombe@ag.tamu.edu. The emails will contain educational articles, important deadlines, 4-H activities, and club news. Stay informed by reading those emails!

FACEBOOK

We will post lots of useful information, deadlines, 4-H activities, and club news on our [Clay County 4-H FaceBook page](#) (link). Please follow our page, and check it often, to keep up with what is going on!



4-H MEMBERSHIP

PROGRAM YEAR

The 4-H program year begins on September 1 and concludes on August 31 the following year.

MEMBERSHIP POLICIES

Any person, regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, religion, disability, or national origin, may enroll as a 4-H member.

Texas 4-H activities and events are open to enrolled members from grades 3 through 12.

Events that require registration, certification, or entry, during the summer prior to the beginning of the 4-H year: County Extension Agents may sign entry forms for events that will occur during the 4-H year, for youths who will become eligible for and enroll in 4-H on September 1, but these youths may not participate in 4-H competitive events and activities until September 1.

Zero-based enrollment: for accountability purposes, and the requirement for keeping mailing lists updated, the Texas 4-H program will continue to use zero-based enrollment, meaning that we start new every 4-H year and must re-enroll previous members and volunteers and enroll new members and volunteers.

PROJECT ENROLLMENT

All 4-H members must be enrolled in at least one project. A member may add or delete project enrollments at any time during the 4-H year.

CROSS-COUNTY ENROLLMENT

Membership cannot be held simultaneously in more than one county or state, but membership may change with residence, as long as the member competes in a given project in only one county or state.

A member of a 4-H club must participate in 4-H learning groups and other educational activities under the guidance of a 4-H volunteer who is enrolled in the county Extension office. A member of a 4-H club is expected to enroll in one or more 4-H projects and provide written evidence of project completion.

Exception - if it is more convenient, desirable or logical for a 4-H member or Clover Kid to belong to 4-H in an adjacent county, he or she may do so, if both agents involved agree. The agreement should be in writing. In addition, crossing county lines requires either changing all membership from the home to the host county or participating in the project in the host county but representing the home county in events and activities.



WHAT DO YOU DO IN 4-H?



The 4-H slogan is “Learn by Doing”. 4-H members complete learning experiences called 4-H projects. A project is an area of interest that a 4-H member wants to learn more about. Each project consists of at least six hours of learning time and provides hands-on, in-depth learning experiences for members.

A 4-H member may participate in one or more project each year. Below is a partial list of 4-H projects to choose from.

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Photography | Beef |
| Dog Care | Sheep |
| Citizenship | Swine |
| Food & Nutrition | Rabbits |
| Clothing & Textiles | Poultry |
| Public Speaking | Horse |
| Horticulture | Dairy Cattle |
| Leadership | Goats |
| Shooting Sports | Archery |
| STEM | Quiz Bowls (Beef, Horse, & Nutrition) |
| Consumer Education | |

Just about any subject can be tailored into an independent 4-H project if your club doesn't have a leader for your interests.

Another way to participate in 4-H is by attending club meetings. These club meetings are conducted by 4-H'ers who have been elected into officer positions. 4-H adult volunteer leaders help 4-H members plan and run the meetings. Each club has an adult volunteer leader who acts as club manager. The 4-H club manager oversees the meetings and activities of his or her respective club

4-H offers its members many fun activities to participate. In addition to attending club meetings and completing projects, you might also enjoy making presentations, performing skits, and leadership and community service activities. There are also opportunities to participate in 4-H camps, retreats, exhibition shows and contest.



4-H ENROLLMENT



4-H members and volunteer leaders will utilize the online enrollment system to enroll in the Clay County 4-H program.

Once enrolled, your family profile stays with you your entire 4-H career, no need to ever create a new family profile.

If you move to another county, just contact your County Extension Agent and they can get the transfer process started.

CLICK THE LINK BELOW TO ENROLL



4-H ONLINE ENROLLMENT SYSTEM

THE 4-H PROJECT



THE 4-H PROJECT GROUP

Members will have the opportunity to participate in group learning and peer teaching since sharing skills and experiences often provides them with greater learning opportunities. Group participation can also motivate members to follow through with commitments. Members are usually involved in group learning through their participation in a project group.

Project group meetings (4-H classroom setting) are where members acquire subject-matter, knowledge and skills, and general life skills. 4-H projects are required to have six educational experiences so that 4-H members can develop their knowledge and skills.

Most clubs will have several project groups to offer. If there are five or less members enrolled in a project, the club may decide not to offer that project. Parents will be expected at this time to help the 4-H member select another project. In some cases projects are available on a countywide level (i.e. shooting sports, photography, food and nutrition, fashion and interior design, etc.). Project leaders for county wide events are responsible for announcing meeting dates, times, and places.

THE 4-H PROJECT

The project is the heart of the 4-H program. A wide variety of projects are available for members. Project opportunities vary depending upon the county and club.

Through well chosen projects, members learn to use their resources, to assume responsibility and to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for everyday living. A project may extend over a short period of time or for several years. “Learn-by-doing” is the most important aspect of a project, not time.

Making, growing, caring for, observing and participating – all of these active learning processes are involved in 4-H projects.

From a member’s viewpoint, projects may be fun, help develop skills, offer an opportunity to assume responsibility, to make a profit, save money or explore interests and careers. Projects also offer a chance to do things with friends.

Leaders and parents may see the project as a means to create more interest in daily tasks, strengthen family and community ties, develop knowledge and skills of members, explore possible career opportunities, enhance positive self-concept, develop the ability to organize, plan and make decisions.



THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING A PROJECT

- Select a project you like or have interest in learning about.
- Select a project that can be completed.
- Consider the monetary investment required. Can parents/guardians help?
- Consider the space and equipment that you have at home.
- Consider parental support for the project.
- Be aware of the opportunities for growth in this project.
- A 4-H project should be fun, serve a purpose, and be worth the effort.
- Select only the number of projects you can complete.

**DO THE APPROPRIATE RESEARCH BEFORE YOU
PURCHASE, OR COMMIT TO, A PROJECT.**



HOW DO I BECOME A 4-H VOLUNTEER?

To learn more about becoming a 4-H volunteer, contact the Clay County Extension office or a club manager.

- Consider volunteering to lead a 4-H group in your community, your local school, or any other location where there are youth who need positive, committed adult role models in their lives.
- Complete the Texas 4-H Volunteer Enrollment and Youth Protection Standards Program. Because the Texas 4-H Youth Development program is committed to helping create safe environments for young people to learn, have fun, and develop socially, we work to ensure that the adults we entrust to work with young people only have the best interests of youth at heart.
- Share your skills, knowledge and talents while having fun with kids and you're sure to make a difference in their lives.

4-H offers a variety of programs, activities, and events designed specifically to support and enhance volunteer participation and involvement in kids' lives. The work volunteers do with youth is also supported by university-developed educational materials and resources available through your Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office.



Volunteer

WHAT TYPES OF 4-H VOLUNTEERS ARE THERE?

Volunteers are essential to the successful implementation of the 4-H program. All registered adult 4-H volunteers, working directly with 4-H youth in Texas, complete a Youth Protection Standards Program (criminal background check) and receive training. Teens may also serve in volunteer roles through the 4-H Leadership Project.

Volunteers can serve in a variety of roles, including the following:

- 4-H Club Managers
- Teachers
- Event Judges
- Community Resource Persons
- Camp Counselors/Chaperones
- Parent Helpers
- Advisory Council Members
- Foundation Members
- Mentors

CLAY COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL

Members of the Clay County 4-H Council plan and coordinate 4-H activities in the county. The Clay County 4-H Council also promotes county, district, and state level 4-H activities.

County Council is comprised of 4-H members from each of the various 4-H clubs in the County. Clubs are encouraged to have two to three council delegates who will attend the County 4-H Council meetings. Typically, a 4-H member is elected into the position of council delegate and represents his or her club at the County 4-H Council meetings. In most cases, the President of the 4-H club also serves as a delegate to the County 4-H Council. In addition to the club council delegates and presidents, membership to the council is open to all Clay County 4-Hers.

The Clay County 4-H Council serves as a communication channel. Council delegates represent their club and relay information and ideas from their club to the council. The council delegates also relay information from the council to their club to keep the members up to date on county-wide activities and events.

Meetings of the Clay County 4-H Council are held bimonthly, at 6:30 PM in Henrietta, starting in September.



CLAY COUNTY 4-H VOLUNTEER LEADER ASSOCIATION

All 4-H parents and leaders are encouraged to become part of the Volunteer Leaders Association.

This association is composed of volunteer 4-H leaders who meet and work together to support the youth of Clay County 4-H.

The Volunteer Leaders Association works in conjunction with the County 4-H Council to plan and coordinate county-wide 4-H activities. The Volunteer Leaders Association works to financially assist the 4-H youth through fundraising projects.

The Association is also useful as a meeting forum in which leaders may exchange ideas.

Meetings of the Clay County 4-H Volunteer Leaders Association are held bimonthly, at 6:30 PM, in Henrietta.





4-H RECORD BOOKS



Each 4-H member is encouraged to keep a record of his or her 4-H work. Records are not an extra task, but are a part of the 4-H program. Few young people (adults are no exception) enjoy record keeping. However, it is an important life skill.

Why encourage 4-H members to keep good records?

A 4-H record teaches a desirable habit. Modern day society demands that each and every one, no matter what vocation, keep track of financial and business matters. Developing this habit early in life will be a valuable asset.

A 4-H record is a measuring stick. Members and leaders are kept informed of the member's progress, and that will usually stimulate self-improvement by the member.

A 4-H record is a mirror. It will reflect accomplishments and therefore serve as the basis for awards, trips and other recognition.

A 4-H record provides youth with a time for reflection about who they are, what their goals are, what they have accomplished in the past year, etc.

A 4-H record can be achieved only when there is the proper attitude and cooperation between member, parents, and leaders.

4-Hers learn:

to communicate in writing.

to organize thoughts.

to set goals and work toward these goals.

to make short and long term plans.

to evaluate a record of growth from year to year.

to recognize skills learned, goals accomplished, and successes they've had.

Record Books are due mid-June, of each year, and are **REQUIRED TO APPLY FOR COUNTY AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS.**

Information required to complete a record book is available at the Clay County Extension Office, or you may [click here for the Texas 4-H Record Book Link.](#)

4-H CONTESTS



There are a variety of 4-H contests which offer members a chance to showcase their skills. Many of these contests are offered at the county, district, and state level.

Below are brief descriptions of some of the annual contests. Please note that all contest dates, times, and locations are subject to change. Notifications of changes will be emailed and posted on facebook.

CONSUMER DECISION MAKING

Consumer decision making is a team contest where 4-H members must evaluate goods and decide upon the best product for a given scenario. 4-Hers will gain knowledge in the area of price, quality, and product evaluation.

4-H ROUNDUP

4-H Roundup provides 4-H members a chance to demonstrate and practice their public speaking skills. 4-H members use the knowledge they gain from their 4-H projects and activities to prepare presentations, which are a valuable educational part of the 4-H program.

Educational Presentations are planned presentations, by one or more 4-H members, designed to teach information related to a project or activity. Visual aids including slides, posters, charts, pictures, and models may be used in the educational presentations. 4-Hers may present educational presentations individually or in teams with up to five members.

In addition to educational presentations, 4-H Roundup offers PUBLIC SPEAKING. Individuals present a 5 to 7 minute talk suitable for a platform speech or radio broadcast. Props and visual aids are not permitted and recordings of any type may not be used.

Share-the-Fun Skits are other competitions that are part of 4-H Roundup. These skits allow 4-H members to discover and fine-tune their acting and showmanship talents. There are six divisions within Share-the-Fun.

- Poetry/Prose
- Vocal
- Musical-Instrumental
- Solo/Band Performance
- Choreographed Routines
- Celebrate 4-H

CLICK THE CONTEST TITLE FOR MORE DETAILS

4-H CONTESTS



AG PRODUCT ID

20 Texas agricultural products are selected and exhibited at separate stations. Contestants select the correct identification of each product from four possible answers. Following, the product identification, each station has one multiple choice question pertaining to the product on display. Questions can be general to the industry that produced the product, (i.e. Texas' national ranking, economic impact to Texas, general nutritional content, region of production) and specific to the individual product that is on display (i.e. cooking method, use, growing season, specific nutrition of the cut or variety). Contestants are given 40 seconds at each station to answer both questions. Please refer to the Product list for suggested products and the resource guide for study materials. Contest locations include Texas State Fair, Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and Texas 4-H Roundup. [Click for the AG Product ID Explorer Guide.](#)

LIVESTOCK QUIZ BOWL

The Livestock Quiz Bowl is a team trivia contest that tests 4-H members' knowledge about livestock and the livestock industry. 4-Hers compete in teams of four.

BEE KEEPING ESSAY CONTEST

The Beekeeping Essay Contest is sponsored by the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc. For over 50 years, the American Beekeeping Federation has been serving the needs of the U.S. beekeeper. Any youth interested in participating in the contest must follow the instructions for the Texas selection process. Each State Winner, including the national winners, receives an appropriate book about honey bees, beekeeping, or honey.

ENTOMOLOGY

Did you know that nearly three-fourths of all animals are insects? Because there are so many insects, they impact our daily lives in both good and bad ways. In this 4-H project you will learn about entomology (the study of insects). You will learn about the insect world by studying, collecting and identifying various insects. Discover how helpful and harmful insects live, multiply, and affect humans. This project is easy to afford because insects are free or inexpensive at pet stores or scientific supply houses. Because of their size, insects can be easily housed in small containers for observation. Learn how to identify, classify, collect, and preserve insects and other arthropods.

**CLICK THE
CONTEST TITLE
FOR MORE
DETAILS**

4-H CONTESTS



DUDS TO DAZZLE

During Duds to Dazzle, teams of 3 to 5 receive textiles and each team has 60 minutes to create a new product using items from the supply closet. Each team provides their own supply kit (supply kit list found in Duds to Dazzle guide). The teams then present their item to a team of judges. You may also be tested on what you have learned about how the clothing & textile industry impacts the environment, specifically the waste stream.

4-H DOG SHOW

The Texas 4-H Dog Show has been a great success for 40 years! Competitors are from all over the state, ranging in age from 8 to 18. All breeds, including mixed, are welcome to compete after they have met the minimum requirements. Dog and 4-H member teams can compete in five different classes, such as: obedience or rally, conformation, showmanship, drill team, and/or costume.

FASHION SHOW

The Fashion Show provides opportunities for 4-H members to demonstrate what they have learned about good grooming, poise, fashion interpretation, and understanding of style. Clothing and Textiles participants may choose to concentrate on clothing construction or buying. They will have the opportunity to model these garments at the Clay County 4-H Fashion Show, in March. The District Fashion Show is held in April, and the State 4-H Fashion Show is in June.

STORYBOARD

The 4-H Storyboard is an industry-inspired method of displaying original designs. The storyboard “tells the story” of the designer’s idea. The storyboard includes original illustrations, flats, and more to promote the design. Now an invitational contest for Senior members!

PHOTOGRAPHY

The Texas 4-H Photography Contest encourages self-expression and allows youth to demonstrate skills learned in the area of photography, including the use of photographic equipment and processing of photographs.

The Texas 4-H Photography Judging contest allows 4-H members to demonstrate skills in the evaluation, selection, and placing of photographs based on industry standards and expectations. The 4-Hers participating in the contest will judge six classes of photographs and two classes of problems, testing both the participants' knowledge and skills in the photography project.

**CLICK THE CONTEST TITLE
FOR MORE DETAILS**

4-H CONTESTS



FCH QUIZ BOWL

FCH “Quiz Bowl” is a quiz game that tests teams of 4 on their knowledge of basic nutrition, consumer information, food and kitchen safety, food preparation skills and storage, and health. Up against the clock, the 4-Hers buzz in to answer a question and earn points for correct answers. Teams advance in a tournament-system bracket to win the competition. The contest will cover materials found in Food & Nutrition, Healthy Lifestyles Invitational, and Consumer Decision Making.

FOOD CHALLENGE

Modeled after such competitions as the Food Network’s Chopped, the 4-H Food Challenge allows teams of 4-H members to create a dish using only a predetermined amount of ingredients. From these ingredients, the 4-Hers must identify, prepare and then present information related to the serving size, nutritional value, and cost of the dish. Through out this energized process, the 4-H members are demonstrating their culinary and food safety skills to judges and on-lookers

FOOD SHOW

The Food Show allows 4-H members an opportunity to practice skills and share knowledge acquired through the Foods and Nutrition project. There are four categories in which to compete: Main Dish, Side Dish, Appetizer, and Healthy Dessert. The Clay County Food Show is held in October, the District 3 Food Show is held in December, and the State 4-H Food Show is in June.

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES INVITATIONAL

The invitational is held at 4-H Roundup. Teams do not have to qualify to enter. First, you are given a story (in each of 8 classes) related to a healthy lifestyles topic and four possible outcomes or choices. You must rank the four choices and are scored on your answer. Then, in the presentation portion, teams must work together to analyze a problem, develop a solution, and make a presentation to the judges.

HORSE SHOW

4-H members can show off their horsemanship skills while participating in the 4-H Horse Show. 4-H horses must be owned by May 1st of the current 4-H year. There is also a futurity project that you can participate in. The Clay County 4-H Horse Show will be held in May, the District 4-H Horse Show is held in June, and the State 4-H Horse Show is held in July.

**CLICK THE CONTEST TITLE
FOR MORE DETAILS**

4-H CONTESTS



LIVESTOCK JUDGING

Livestock judging is a highly competitive experience that enhances independent decision-making abilities while challenging participants to process information quickly and be able to defend a position or decision. Livestock judging is the visual appraisal of an animal's physical traits, including positive and negative features.

HORSE JUDGING

In horse judging, you will compete on a team as you learn to be the judge of a horse show! You will learn all the body parts of a horse, the ideal characteristics of how a horse moves, determine how to score horses in competition, and explain how you decided on your scores. You will learn decision-making and public speaking skills. When you get to the senior level of this activity, you could compete in national competitions.

HORSE QUIZ BOWL

Quiz Bowl is an opportunity for participants demonstrate all of the information gained during the past year through their project. It will also help them learn more about their project while getting the opportunity to compete on a state level. It is a team event. The team that buzzes in first, gets to answer the question. Held at 4-H Roundup each year, competitors must qualify through their district in order to compete in this event.

MEAT SCIENCE

There are several contests throughout the year at almost every major stock show as well as District and State 4-H events. Students are given a set of meats that they must evaluate and score. After they have made their decision of which cut of meat is the best they will write a set of oral reasons. It is a competitive environment to test their knowledge of the subject of meat science.

LIVESTOCK SKILL-A-THON

The Livestock Skill-a-thon contest tests a 4-H member's knowledge and comprehension of animal science and livestock management practices. The contest provides an opportunity for youth to gain and develop production livestock skills and life skills through a competitive environment.

**CLICK THE CONTEST TITLE
FOR MORE DETAILS**

4-H CONTESTS



SET POSTER CONTEST

The Discover Scientific Research Method Poster contest allows youth to apply the scientific method to the subject matter they have learned through their 4-H projects. The scientific method is a process for experimentation that is used to formulate and test a hypothesis through experimentation and data analysis. Scientists use the scientific method to explore relationships in nature. The poster contest allows youth an opportunity to display and explain (through the scientific method) their project, research, and observations.

RABBIT EXTRAVAGANZA

The Texas 4-H Rabbit Extravaganza is open to official Texas 4-H age enrolled members. The event includes opportunities for youth to exhibit their rabbit projects in numerous breeds in addition to single fryers and meat pens. 4-H members without rabbits may also participate in a variety of other educational events. These include Art (graphic and handicrafts), Best Dressed Rabbit (costume), Breed Identification, Educational/Promotional Rabbit Posters and Displays, Hands-on-Judging (by the youth), Photography, Rabbit Quiz Bowl, and Showmanship. This event takes place in the Fall of every year.

LIVESTOCK SHOWS

There are a number of opportunities for youth to exhibit their livestock at the local, county, state, and national levels. County and state livestock show opportunities are advertised through email and facebook posts. If you are new to showing livestock, please contact the Clay County Extension Office and we will be able to help you set up a livestock show plan.

**CLICK THE CONTEST TITLE
FOR MORE DETAILS**



4-H LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



The 4-H program offers youth many opportunities to learn and apply leadership skills. Service opportunities exist for members from the club level on through the state level—and even at the national and international levels. Numerous training and networking activities are available for members as they mature and seek out increasing amounts of responsibility.

DISTRICT LEADERSHIP LABS

Most Extension districts host a 2-to 4-day leadership retreat where senior 4-H members receive in-depth training. Dates and costs vary from district to district. Information is mailed to county Extension offices in the spring of each year. The goal of leadership lab is for participants to take information that they learn back to their local club or county and teach others.

JUNIOR LEADERSHIP RETREAT and TEEN RETREAT

Junior and Teen Leadership Retreats provide youth a state level leadership development experience. Workshops are facilitated by Texas 4-H Council and other senior level 4-H youth and focus on leadership, group dynamics, leading recreation, and more. Additionally, youth experience service opportunities. The Junior workshop is conducted annually in November, and the Teen workshop is conducted annually in January. Both are held at the Texas 4-H Conference Center.

4-H LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

TEXAS 4-H CONGRESS (link)

This mock legislative educational event is held in Austin in even-numbered years. During the four day program, senior 4-H youth experience the legislative process first hand. By role-playing as senators, representatives, lobbyists and press corps members, youth are exposed to the full political scene. Activities range from debating bills in the actual Texas Legislature chambers to socializing with advocates and opponents at evening receptions. Youth return to their communities with a better understanding of how our state government works. Information is sent to County Extension offices in the Winter preceding the event year.

NATIONAL 4-H CONGRESS (link)

National 4-H Congress is the flagship event of the 4-H program. Youth from the United States and its territories have participated in this youth leadership development conference. The Congress provides youth, ages 14-19, a quality, educational, and cross-cultural experience that exceeds what any state independently provides. It is designed to address the needs and issues of youth while helping to develop capable, competent, and caring citizens. The program is built upon the Cooperative Extension System's belief that young people can be significant partners in addressing the issues that face our nation especially those affecting youth. Each year a National Design Team of Extension educators, 4-H youth, and 4-H adult volunteers analyze current youth issues and determine the most effective ways to address them. The program combines plenary sessions, seminars, discussion groups, and a service learning experience. The nation's most outstanding community leaders, speakers, and educators present the most current and timely information available.

NATIONAL 4-H CONFERENCE (link)

The National 4-H Conference is the Secretary of Agriculture's premier youth development opportunity to engage youth in developing recommendations for the 4-H Youth Development Program. The National 4-H Conference is a working conference in which youth and adults--at the invitation of the Secretary of Agriculture--assist in the development of recommendations to help guide 4-H Youth Development Programs nationally and in their communities. This event brings together youth, volunteer leaders, and state and county Extension staff members from across the United States, the U.S. Territories, and the Canadian Provinces. As the sponsor for this conference, the National 4-H Headquarters located within Families, 4-H, and Nutrition at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) NIFA (National Institute of Food and Agriculture) is charged with sharing the recommendations that emerge from the conference with the Secretary of Agriculture, national Extension Program Leaders, and others who determine 4-H programs. At the same time, ensuring that the conference is a meaningful experience for the youth and adult participants. More information including application deadlines and important dates can be found at http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/youth_national_conference.

4-H LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

HORIZONS (link)

This five day, four night camp focuses around project enhancement, career exploration, and personal/professional development. Participants choose their focus area where they will receive approximately 16 hours of instruction and introduction to careers in the field. Each workshop is limited to 20 youth and are filled on a first come, first served basis. Evening activities are geared towards professional development and workforce preparation, and of course, camp recreation and games! Dances each night! Early registration begins in March.

MISSION POSSIBLE (link)

Mission Possible promotes the involvement of all youth. We invite youth with and without disabilities or special needs or who require special accommodations to participate in this unique summer residential camping program. 4-H membership is NOT a requirement. The focus is on each campers' abilities--not their disabilities. Participants are encouraged to recognize their individual strengths and their own limitations while participating in a safe and fun camp environment!

PRIME TIME (link)

Prime Time is an age-specific, four day three night residential camp experience. Session I is for youth who have completed grades 5-8, while Session II is for youth who have completed grades 2-5. Yes, those youth completing grade 5 can choose which session to participate in. Camp activities include swimming, kayaking, challenge course, rifle, archery, arts & crafts, dancing, games and lots more. Evening activities involve all youth in team building, dorm challenges, and the nightly dance. Alternative activities are available during the dance.

COUNTY CAMP (link)

County Camp programs at the Texas 4-H Conference Center are designed to provide an opportunity for youth to experience summer camp while enjoying the advantage of meeting youth from across the state. Participants will enjoy kayaking, swimming, the climbing wall, environmental education, drama, riflery, archery, arts and crafts, games, dancing and special events! County camp is offered as a three day, two night or four day, three night experience. Youth who have completed second through eleventh grade are eligible. County groups are housed together, by gender, in the dormitories with their Adult Chaperones. Youth are assigned to co-ed groups based on their age, for the daily educational activities

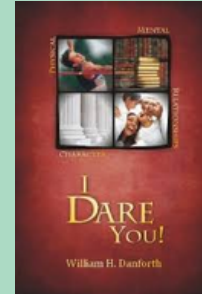


CLAY COUNTY 4-H AWARDS PROGRAM



DANFORTH I DARE YOU

See page 29.



BRONZE STAR AWARD

- All Junior members
- Record Book for current year
- Oral interview
- Judged by panel

SILVER STAR AWARD

- All Intermediate members
- Record Book for current year
- Oral interview
- Judged by a panel

GOLD STAR AWARD

See next page for requirements.

LEADER AWARDS

Distinguished Service Award:
selection will be conducted by a panel of judges selected by the Extension Office staff. Award may be received only once. Nominations will be accepted by clubs or individuals.

Nominees must have been a leader for at least one 4-H year.





GOLD STAR AWARD



The Gold Star Award is the highest county achievement award and intended to be received only once in a member's 4-H career. Counties have award quotas based on the number of senior 4-H members. The award will be presented to the most deserving young people without regard to sex. The following requirements must be met:

The member must be at least 15 years of age as of September 1st of the 4-H year in which he or she is to be considered for the award and must have completed at least 3 years in 4-H including the current year.

The 4-H member must submit an awards program record book in the year he or she is to be considered for the awards.

The 4-H member must have completed projects in three different project areas, including submission of appropriate record forms, and have participated in one or more activities in at least three of the following areas:

- Educational Presentations
- Projects
- Camps
- Citizenship Activities
- Project Exhibits
- Leadership Labs
- Public Relations (speeches, poster displays, radio, TV, newspapers, etc.)
- Other (exchange programs, fundraising, State and National Congress, etc.)

Note: It is not expected that the requirements for projects and activities all be completed in the current year. They may have been accomplished over the entire period of time the 4-Her has been in the program.

The member must have exhibited leadership skills by serving as a 4-H officer or committee chairman (club, county, district or state), and/or as a junior or teen leader in an activity or project with or under the supervision of an adult volunteer leader. The 4-H member must have participated in one or more community service activities. Examples are working or counseling with junior 4-H members; participating in community service projects (individual, group or club-type); and motivating other 4-H members through participation in educational presentations, project and/or exhibits.

DANFORTH I DARE YOU AWARD

History of the Danforth- “I Dare You” Award
Mr. William H. Danforth’s book, “I Dare You” was first published in 1931. It is still considered one of the most influential books in the area of personal motivation. Now in it’s 28th printing, the book is published and distributed by the American Youth Foundation through its I Dare You Committee. The award is offered as recognition of excellence in character and well-balanced development as well as demonstrated leadership.

Minimum Criteria

The Danforth – “I Dare You” is a National 4-H award, a maximum of two (2) are presented at the county level therefore, recipients will meet all criteria so the quality of the award can be maintained. The following criteria will be considered the minimum. Any 4-H member not meeting these criteria will not be considered for the award. The organization may choose not to award the Danforth – “I Dare You” if there are not 4-H members in the county who actually exceed the minimum criteria. The maximum number of Danforth – “I Dare You” recipients in Parker County will not exceed two (2). The Danforth – “I Dare You” can be won only one time.

Criteria for Selection:

A. The 4-H member must be at least 14 years of age but not over 19 years of age as of August 31 of the current 4-H year and have completed at least three (3) years in 4-H including the current year.

B. The 4-H member must submit an Awards Program Record Book for county competition in the year the 4-Her is to be considered for the Danforth – “I Dare You” showing at least three (3) years of 4-H experience. An application for the award must be completed and returned to the Parker County Extension Office on the same date as Record Books. There will be no exceptions. The application should be paper clipped to the outside front cover of the Record Books.

C. Project Activities during the 4-Hers’ years in 4-H, the member must have:

1. Completed projects in three (3) different project areas that are detailed in the Record Book.
2. Participated in and completed one or more activities in at least three (3) of the following areas in the current year.
 - Educational Presentation
 - Contests
 - Project Exhibits
 - Camps
 - Leadership Lab
 - Citizenship Activities
 - Public Relations-Examples: demonstrations, speeches, poster displays, club exhibits, project shows, radio, TV, newspapers, special projects
 - Other (may include fund raising, State and National Congress, etc.)
 - Project activities

D. Leadership – During the applicant’s years in 4-H, the 4-H member must have done the following:

- Served as an officer or committee chairman at some level of the 4-H organization club, county, district, state and/or
- Served as teen leader in an activity or project with, or under the supervision of an adult volunteer leader.

E. Community Service, Citizenship, Character
The 4-H member must have participated in one or more community service activities such as: Working or counseling with 4-H members. Communities Service projects, either individual, group or club type projects, contributions to school, church and community.

- Must have motivated other 4-H members through participation in demonstrations, projects and/or exhibits.
- Character should include attitude and personal growth in accepting responsibilities and serving others.

4-H TERMINOLOGY

Volunteer Leader – An adult who works closely with club managers to provide leadership and assistance for specific projects. Volunteer leaders are responsible for at least one project at the club level.

4-H Age – 3rd grade through 12th grade, August 31st of the 4-H year.

Age Divisions – (Ages are based on August 31st of the previous 4-H year.)

- Clover Kid – 5 years of age to 8 years (and not in the 3rd grade).
- Junior – 3rd grade - 5th grade
- Intermediate – 6th grade - 8th grade
- Senior – 9th - 12th grade

4-H Ambassador – 4-H members who have been selected and trained to represent 4-H before civic and community groups to promote 4-H.

4-H Club – a group of boys and girls, 3rd grade through 12th grade, who are advised by club managers and volunteer leaders. Each elects their own officers, who preside at club meetings.

Club Manager - Volunteer leaders who provide guidance and management to a 4-H Club. Serves as the contact person between the club and the County Extension Office.

Club Meeting – 4-H members meet, generally on a monthly basis, to handle the business of the club. Generally one hour in length. Follows a four part agenda including inspiration, business, program and recreation.

Club Officers – Elected by the club members each year. Officers are responsible for conducting 4-H club meetings and planning with club managers.

4-H Committee – Committees can serve many functions within a club or on the county level. They offer members extra involvement and leadership opportunities. A Committee Chairman (ex. Refreshment Chairman) leads an individual committee.

Community Service Project – An activity conducted by 4-H'ers for the benefit of the community. Collecting food or clothing for the needy, Christmas caroling, and Adopt-A-Highway roadside clean-ups are examples of community service projects.

District 3 – Texas 4-H is organized geographically into districts. There are 24 counties in District 3, and 12 Districts in the State of Texas. Clay County is in District 3, the “Rolling Plains” District.

Enrollment – 4-H membership begins with choosing a 4-H club to join and completing a 4-H enrollment form. Re-enrollment begins in September, and every 4-H member and adult leader must re-enroll each year to continue their membership

4-H TERMINOLOGY

4-H Leader – An adult volunteer who works with 4-H club members.

4-H Year – September 1st to August 31st of the following year.

National 4-H Week – Held the first full week of October. Provides an opportunity to increase public awareness and understanding of the 4-H program.

4-H Prayer – “Help me, O Lord, to live so that the world may be a little better because Thou didst make me....Amen.”

4-H Project – An area of study in which 4-H members participate. A project consists of at least six hours of learning time. Members may choose from over 40 projects.

Project Group Meeting – Meetings where 4-H members learn about their specific project area. Coordinated by adult project leaders.

Project Leader – An adult volunteer who helps 4-H members learn through involvement in a specific 4-H project.

4-H Scholarship – Scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$15,000 are available to graduating 4-H members who meet application criteria. The State Scholarship program is administered by the Texas 4-H Foundation.

State 4-H Roundup – State event in which qualifying Senior 4-H members compete in various contests. Held on the campus of Texas A&M University each year in June.

Teen Leader – Teen members who accept leadership responsibilities in 4-H project meetings, workshops, trainings, or special activities.

Texas 4-H Center – a camp facility operated by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service on the shores of Lake Brownwood. Extension training programs and 4-H camps and retreats are conducted throughout the year.

Texas 4-H Congress – An educational event for 4-H members, ages 15 through 18. Held in Austin, Texas in even-numbered years. Participants study and learn about state government by participating in a “mock congress.”

Texas 4-H Council – Consists of two 4-H delegates from each of the twelve Extension Districts. State Council plans and carries out many statewide events, including 4-H Roundup and Texas 4-H Congress.



DO I HAVE TO SHOW AN ANIMAL TO BE IN 4-H?

4-H offers many projects including animals, but a member does not have to own an animal to be in 4-H.

WHAT ARE THE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE CCJLA COUNTY SHOW?

To participate in the County Show in January, a member must live in Clay County or attend a school in Clay County.

HOW CAN I JOIN 4-H?



Anyone, regardless of race, gender, religion or socioeconomic status may join 4-H. All you have to do to join is attend a regular 4-H club meeting and complete a 4-H enrollment form or enroll online here

[CLICK HERE TO ENROLL](#)

WHAT ARE THE AGE REQUIREMENTS FOR 4-H?

Anyone in third grade through twelfth grade, as of August 31 of the current year, may be enrolled as a “traditional” 4-H member. 4-H Clover Kids are young people from Kindergarten through second grade. Please keep in mind that there are specific age requirements for participating in the County Livestock Show. Just because you're able to enroll in 4-H doesn't automatically make you eligible.

WHAT ARE THE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR 4-H?

A member can only be enrolled in one county. A member may participate in a regular project in a county they are not a member of if their “home” county does not offer that project.



WHERE IS THE CLOSEST 4-H CLUB TO ME?

There is a list, on page 6, that shows all 4-H club meeting locations in Clay County.

DO I HAVE TO “GET OUT” OF 4-H WHEN I BECOME A FFA MEMBER ?

No, you can be enrolled and involved in both 4-H and FFA. Extension and FFA Advisors encourage joint participation.

WHY SHOULD I JOIN 4-H?

A. 4-H is an organization that provides projects that interest nearly every young person. Your amount of involvement is your decision. 4-H has something for everyone.




WHAT ABOUT LIVESTOCK SHOWS AND VALIDATION?

Livestock projects are a serious undertaking. Much money and time is spent choosing animals, working them at home, and showing at livestock shows. You can view a calendar in the back to review what shows are held during the year.

All market animals that will be exhibited at major livestock shows must have state validation tags. Species committees are formed in each county that include County Extension Agents and Agriculture Science Teachers from schools located in the county. Validation is a very serious matter. If your animal is not validated and the proper paperwork is not filled out correctly, you may not exhibit your animal(s). It is your responsibility as the exhibitor, to know times and locations of validation. Emails, with those details, will be sent.



Frequently Asked Questions



HOW ARE SCHOOL ABSENCES FOR 4-H FUNCTIONS HANDLED?

Clay County Extension Agents have the opportunity to become adjunct faculty members of each school district in Clay County. This means that agents are considered “off-campus teachers” by school district boards who vote to pass a resolution, each year, allowing students to attend various 4-H events under the supervision of Clay County agents and still be counted as present for school attendance purposes. Therefore, if you are competing in any event that requires you to miss school (examples: Junior Livestock Shows, District Consumer Decision Making Contest, District Horse Judging), you are required to have the appropriate prior approval forms submitted to the school and then back to the Extension Office. A letter will then be sent to the appropriate school to be filed in your personal school records.

4-H is an extra-curricular activity and therefore must follow the Texas Education Agency rules for “No Pass - No Play” guidelines. You must be academically eligible to complete in any event whether it is during the school week or on a weekend. The same form that is used for approval for missing school also serves as an academic eligibility form and must be submitted to the Extension office, prior to the event, as proof of eligibility. Forms are available from the Extension office.

These procedures are mandatory on any and all events that are entered or registered through the Extension office (the entry requires an agent’s signature to be accepted). Open shows (open to the general public) are not under the 4-H domain and therefore do not usually qualify for approval of missing school under 4-H but some schools have agreed to give excused absences if the event directly relates to the 4-Her’s established project. An example would be a 4-Her showing at their association’s State Rabbit show (not considered a Junior show). This type of situation will be at the discretion of each individual school.

HELPFUL WEBSITES



[San Angelo Livestock Show](#)

[Heart of Texas Fair](#)

[West Texas Fair and Rodeo](#)

[State Fair of Texas](#)

[National Western Stock Show](#)

[Arizona National Livestock Show](#)

[American Royal](#)

[Texas A&M Agrilife Extension- Clay County](#)

[Texas A&M AgriLife Extension](#)

[Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Bookstore](#)

[Texas 4-H](#)

[Texas 4-H Center in Brownwood](#)

[Texas 4-H Record Book Information](#)

[National 4-H](#)

[National 4-H Curriculum Center](#)

[4-H Parliamentary Procedure](#)

[Texas 4-H Friends and Alumni](#)

[Purple Circle Magazine](#)

[The Showbox](#)

[Fort Worth Livestock Show](#)

[Houston Livestock Show](#)

[San Antonio Livestock Show](#)

[Rodeo Austin](#)





PROJECT QUICK LINKS



CLICK THE PROJECT AREA FOR A LINK TO THE STATE RESOURCES

Please note...we do not have project leaders for every project listed. If you are interested in a project without a project leader, you may still participate in the project independently.

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Dog Care & Training
- Goats
- Horse
- Horticulture
- Meat Science
- Poultry
- Rabbits
- Sheep
- Swine
- Veterinary Science

LEADERSHIP AND CITIZENSHIP

- Citizenship
- Community Service
- Global Citizenship
- Leadership
- Public Speaking
- Theater & Performance Arts
- Workforce and Career Prep
- Youth Entrepreneurship

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY HEALTH

- Consumer Education
- Fashion and Interior Design
- Food And Nutrition
- Health and Personal Safety

NATURAL RESOURCES

- Entomology
- Forestry
- Outdoor Education & Living Skills
- Range Science
- Shooting Sports
- Sportfishing
- Water Conservation
- Wildlife & Fisheries

STEM

- Photography & Video
- Robotics
- Rocketry & Aerospace
- Science, Technology, Engineer & Math

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



EMAILS WILL BE SENT, WITH DETAILED INFORMATION RELATING TO PROJECTS, MEETINGS, AND INFORMATION LISTED ON THE CALEDAR OF EVENTS.

***** Dates are subject to change *****



If you are planning on showing in a 2022 major stock show junior show and have not completed a validation order, contact the Extension Office by Sept. 30. This EXCLUDES major stock show steers. Steers had to be validated in June.

September 1: 4-H Enrollment begins

September 5: Extension Office closed for Labor Day

September 8: County Food & Nutrition Workshop

September 14: Heifer Validation Deadline

September 30: State Fair of Texas



OCTOBER



If you are planning on showing at the Majors you need to review the premium book and entry forms for each show you plan to enter and make sure you understand the rules/forms prior to entry in November.

October 2-8: National 4-H Week

TBA: County Food Show

TBA: Hunter Safety Course

TBA: One Day 4-H Community Service

TBA: County Leadership Retreat

TBA: Food Challenge Practices Begin

TBA: Chicken order due for CCJLS

TBA: County Council Meeting

October 31: Last day to enroll in 4-H, if you want to show in the CCJLS



NOVEMBER

If you are planning on showing at the Majors you need to review the premium book and entry forms for each show you plan to enter and make sure you understand the rules/forms prior to entry.

November 5: District Food Show - Vernon

November 9: District 3 Livestock Judging - Vernon

November 11: Extension Office closed for Veteran's Day

TBA: Major Show Entry Night

November 15: Fort Worth Stock Show Entries Due

TBA: County Council Meeting

November 24-25: Extension Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holidays

November 30: District Food Challenge - Jacksboro



If you are showing in the Clay County Junior Livestock Show (CCJLS), you need to be reviewing your CCJLS rule book again to have all rules fresh in your mind prior to arrival at the show. REMEMBER all shows are different.

December 1: CCJLS and Youth Fair Entries Due

December 1: Major Stock Show Entries Due (Odessa, San Angelo, San Antonio, Houston & Austin)

December 15: District 3 Ag Product ID

December 15: Livestock Skill-a-thon

December 23 & 26: Extension Office Closed for Christmas Holiday

JANUARY

If you are showing in the Clay County Junior Livestock Show (CCJLS), you need to be reviewing your CCJLS rule book again to have all rules fresh in your mind prior to arrival at the show. REMEMBER all shows are different.

If you are showing at the Fort Worth Livestock Show you need to be reviewing your FWSSR premium book again to have all rules fresh in your mind prior to arrival at the show. REMEMBER all shows are different.

If you are interested in participating in Spring District contests including Meats, Horse, Dairy, Range ID, and Consumer Decision Making you need to contact the office.

January 2: Extension Office closed for New Year's Holiday

January 4: Clay County Junior Livestock Show & Youth Fair

January 5: Clay County Junior Livestock Show

January 6: Clay County Junior Livestock Show

January 7: Clay County Junior Livestock Show & Sale

January 13-31: Fort Worth Stock Show

January 25-31: San Angelo Stock Show

January 27: Thank you lists for the CCJLS should be made available. **Be sure that you are writing your thank you letters.**

TBA: County Council Meeting



If you are showing at the San Antonio Livestock Show you need to be reviewing your SALE premium book again to have all rules fresh in your mind prior to arrival at the show. REMEMBER all shows are different.

If you are showing at the San Angelo Livestock Show you need to be reviewing your San Angelo premium book again to have all rules fresh in your mind prior to arrival at the show. REMEMBER all shows are different.

If you are showing at the Houston Livestock Show you need to be reviewing your HLSR premium book again to have all rules fresh in your mind prior to arrival at the show. REMEMBER all shows are different.

If you are planning to exhibit a steer at the State Fair of Texas or a major show you have until mid-June to find prospects, however now is the time to begin looking and you will need to order tags in April.

February 1-4: Forth Worth Stock Show

February 1-19: San Angelo Stock Show

February 9-26: San Antonio Stock Show

TBA: Sewing Workshop

TBA: Public Speaking Workshop

February 28: Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo



March

If you are showing at the Houston Livestock Show you need to be reviewing your HLSR premium book again to have all rules fresh in your mind prior to arrival at the show. REMEMBER all shows are different.

If you are planning on exhibiting a market lamb, goat or barrow at the State Fair of Texas you need to begin looking for animals. Many individuals will take the animals (that did not make the sale at County) to State Fair. If you think that might be a possibility, order tags in April.

March 1-19: Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo

TBA: County Fashion Show

TBA: County Roundup/Share the Fun/Public Speaking

TBA: County Council Meeting



April 1: District 3 Duds to Dazzle & Fashion Show - Archer City

April 7: Extension Office closed for Good Friday

April 15: District 3 Consumer Decision Making, Photography, and Roundup - Vernon

April 22: District 3 Rifle/Pistol - Wichita Falls

April 27: District 3 Horse Judging - Vernon



If you are interested in attending camps at the 4-H Youth Center in Brownwood, please watch your emails for camp registration deadlines.

May 1: District 3 Quiz Bowl Contests - Vernon

May 6: District 3 Trap Contest - Iowa Park

May 13: District 3 Archery Contest - Archer City

TBA: County Horse Show

May 29: Extension Office closed for Memorial Day



June 2-3: State 4-H Rifle Match - Victoria

June 5-8 - State 4-H Roundup - College Station

TBA County 4-H Camp

June 15-17: District 3 Teen Leader Lab - Leuders

June 18: County Record Books and Awards Applications Due

June 20: County Awards Interviews

June 21-23: District 3 Horse Show



HAPPY

July 4th!

July 04: Extension Office closed for the 4th of July
July 17: District Record Book Judging - Archer City



August TBA: Clay County 4-H Awards and Recognition Banquet



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