# **4-H Family Handbook** 2023-2024



## Table of Contents



Welcome
Get Connected4
The 4-H Difference
Join a Club6
How to Enroll7
4-H Projects
Ag & Livestock
Family & Community Health / Leadership & Citizenship9
STEM / Natural Resources10
Record Books11
Additional Opportunities12
Week At a Glance





Dear 4-H Families,

Welcome to the Taylor County 4-H program! Through the 4-H program, we are able to provide youth the opportunity to learn and develop important life skills through a variety of hands-on learning experiences.

The 4-H Program has a variety of project areas for everyone's interest. 4-H members participate in many activities which can include everything from food & nutrition to showing livestock. With the wide array of 4-H projects and activities available, many new members do not understand the overall process or the time commitment that comes with some of our projects.

The 4-H program is designed to be a family affair, so 4-H parents are encouraged to get involved in the 4-H experience. Ways that 4-H parents can contribute to the experience range from serving as a project leader to providing transportation to activities, or even supplying refreshments for meetings or special events.

This guide has been developed to assist both new and more experienced 4-H families. No matter if you are a new 4-H member or a "veteran," this handbook is helpful in making your time in the 4-H program a success. We hope that this will be a quick reference guide for you to use to make your 4-H experience more enjoyable. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Extension Office, your club manager, or a project leader.

We look forward to your participation in the Taylor County 4-H!

Thanks,

Maggin Mebulde

Maggie McBride (*Louton*) County Extension Agent | 4-H & Youth Development Taylor County





#### **County Extension Office Location & Mailing Address**

Office Location: 1982 Lytle Way, Abilene, TX 79602-4287

Website: https://taylor.agrilife.org/4-h-information/ | Email: margaret.louton@ag.tamu.edu / amy.acosta@ag.tamu.edu Phone: (325)-672-6048

#### **Extension Office Staff**

Maggie McBride (Louton) CEA - 4-H & Youth Dev. CEA - Ag & Natural Res. margaret.louton@ag.tamu.edu steve.estes@ag.tamu.edu

**Steve Estes** 

**Kim Miles Amy Acosta** CEA - FCH kim.miles@ag.tamu.edu

4-H Administrative Assistant ANR Administrative Assistant

amv.acosta@ag.tamu.edu

pam.jones@aq.tamu.edu

**Pam Jones** 

**Dawnyel Luckie** Program Assistant dawnyel.luckie@ag.tamu.edu

Lora Webb BLT Agent lora.webb@ag.tamu.edu

### **Taylor County Information**

#### **Have Questions?**

Contact any of the above Extension Agents or message us through any of our social media platforms. You can find Taylor County 4-H on Facebook and Instagram.

#### Don't Want to Miss an Update?

Join our Remind App Alerts - follow the steps below to get connected!

- Taylor County 4-H (General): Text @taylorco4h to 81010
- Taylor County 4-H (Livestock): Text @taylive4h to 81010
- Taylor County 4-H (Food & Nutrition): Text @tayfood4h to 81010
- Taylor County 4-H (Clothing and Textiles): Text @taycloth4h to 81010
- Taylor County 4-H Horse Club: Text @taylor4hh to 81010

### District 74-H

Taylor County 4-H is a member of District 7 4-H. Below you can find some helpful links!

Website: <u>https://d74-h.tamu.edu/</u>

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/District-7-4-H

#### Texas 4-H

Below you will find helpful links for Texas 4-H.

Website: https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/

4-HOnline: <u>https://v2.4honline.co</u>m/





## The 4-H Difference

## What is 4-H All About?



4-H is a community of youth across not only Texas, but the United States who are learning leadership, citizenship, and life skills. The 4-H program is all about having fun and making 4-H work for you! In 4-H, young people get a chance to make new friends, develop new skills, and find new passions.

## What Do You Do in 4-H?

4-H is about offering a hands-on experiences to youth so they are able to "learn by doing". Members participate in a variety of learning experiences called 4-H projects. These 4-H projects are a specific area of interest for that 4-H member. The best part about 4-H is some of these projects can be self-directed or done in a group setting. With over 40 projects areas to choose from in the Texas 4-H program, there are opportunities for everyone interested. Project areas in 4-H range from our traditional livestock projects to some of the more non-traditional of robotics and everything in between!

## What Does a 4-H Club Do?

When enrolling in the 4-H program on 4-HOnline, you are asked which 4-H club you want to be a member of. This 4-H club will be the main way of finding out what is happening within Taylor County 4-H! These clubs will elect their own officers and conduct their own business throughout the 4-H year. The business meetings are on a regular basis, depending on the manager of your club these meetings may take place monthly, bi-monthly, or even quarterly, During the business meetings, usually a club will make plans for upcoming activities, host community service events, or have educational programs planned. These educational programs might be presented by fellow 4-H members, county extension agents, or even members of a specific industry (a vet, beekeeper, etc.).

## **Taylor 4-H Newsletter**

With over 200 4-H members in Taylor County 4-H, our monthly newsletter is the number one form of communication between all 4-H'ers, parents, and the Extension Office. It is the responsibility of the 4-H'er to read the newsletter to stay up to date on everything happening in Taylor County 4-H. The newsletter contains information like upcoming dates, contests, or educational opportunities. The newsletter can be found on our Facebook and the email account that you submitted when registering on 4-HOnline.

## Join a Club



Here in Taylor County we have a total of 5 local 4-H Clubs.

When registering for 4-H through <u>4-HOnline</u> you must select a 4-H club that is a community club. However, that does not mean that you can't participate in more than one club!

Community Clubs - Those	re clubs that focus on all aspect of 4-H.
Club Manager(s):	ty club for youth who are mainly in the center of Abilene, TX Mikaela Allmand & Alison Callaway 325-338-4760 mjapi@protonmail.com
Meeting Location & Day:	Taylor County Extension Office   3rd Monday of every month
Meeting Time:	6:00 pm
Additional Contact Info:	Club Facebook: @BIGCOUNTRY4-HCLUB
Horse Club   A community club for	_
Club Manager(s):	Jennifer Rose 325-672-6048 jenniferrose831@hotmail.com
Meeting Location & Day:	Guitar Arena   First Tuesday of every month
Meeting Time:	5:30 pm
Additional Contact Info:	Club Facebook: @TaylorCounty4hHorseClub - Remind text: text @taylor4hh to 81010
	<b>b for youth in the Jim Ned/Tuscola and surrounding areas.</b> Katelyn Horner, Laura Ross, and Leslie Galovich (325) 672 6048jimned4h@gmail.com
Meeting Location & Day: Meeting Time:	Jim Ned HS Cafeteria   1st Sunday of every month 2:00 PM
Additional Contact Info:	Club Facebook: @JimNed4-HClub
Stampede 4-H Club   A community	lub for youth in the Merkel and Trent area.
Club Manager(s):	Maggie McBride - CEA 4-H (325) 672 6048 margaret.louton@ag.tamu.edu
Meeting Location & Day:	TBD   TBD
Meeting Time:	TBD
	hool club for youth in the Wylie area.shley Phillips, Rebecca Velasquez, and Tonya Smith(325) 672 6048wylie4hclub@yahoo.com
Meeting Location & Day:	Wylie Highschool Cafeteria   1st Sunday of every month (except January)
Meeting Time:	4:00 pm
Additional Contact Info:	Club Facebook: Wylie 4-H Club
Shooting Sports ( <i>PROJECT GROU</i> ) Project Leader(s):	ONLY)   A project group exclusively for the Shooting Sports project - DOES NOT COUNT AS A LOCAL CLUB     Jody Peavy - Shotgun   325-660-4385   jodypv3@gmail.com
Meeting Location & Day: Meeting Time:	Rifle & Pistol- Teddy Mills 325-672-6048   Shotgun - every Thursday at Abilene Clay Sports   Shotgun - 6 p.m.

## How to Enroll

### What's the Cost?

Youth Membership Fees 3rd -12th grade - August 15 - October 31st | \$25.00 Below 3rd grade (Clover Kids) - September 1 | \$10.00 November 1 - Completion of 4-H year | \$30.00

### How Do You Enroll?

Adult Membership Fees August 15 - Completion of 4-H Year | \$10.00

\*all adult volunteers must register and have a background check completed.

Head over to 4-HOnline (<u>https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in</u>) and start the enrollment process. If you are enrolling a third-grader, please wait until September 1 to enroll for proper fees to be accessed. ALL YOUTH and ADULTS that participate in 4-H programming need to enroll in the 4-H program!

## New 4-H Family

pro

di

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	
Select to set-up up a ofile. Set-up ONLY ONE family profile per household.	Start adding a member. Enter one enrollment profile at a time.	Review fees. Youth fees vary with date enrolled.	Youth Review enrollment and fees. Click back to make corrections. Click submit.	Adult Review enrollment and fees. Click back to make corrections. Click submit.
Enter a valid e-mail address that is checked often.	Youth will select at least one club and one project. Adults will select a volunteer type.	Youth fees: \$25 until October 31st Adult fees: \$10	Status changes to pending. County office will review and approve.	Adult volunteers must complete screening and required trainings.
Create a password. Requirements will be lisplayed on the screen if not validated.	Enter information in all fields on the "Questions Screen". Youth Birthdate and school grade determines eligibility.	Add and select a credit card to pay for fees. Do not select "pay by count check"	Payment is locked-in. Credit card is charged.	Status is changes to pending. Payment is locked-in. Credit card is charged.
Complete all family information.	Complete the Health and Consent Screens.	Select payment and agree to payment and refund terms.	Status changes to approved.	Status changes to approved after payment is received screening approved, and trainings completed.

#### Returning 4-H Family

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Ste	p 4
DO NOT create a new family profile.	Click enroll next to the member's name.	Review fees. Youth fees vary with date enrolled.	Youth Review enrollment and fees. Click back to make corrections. Click submit.	Adult Review enrollment and fees. Click back to make corrections. Click submit.
Login with the family email address and password.	You can only enroll one member at a time.	Youth fees: \$25 until October 31st Adult fees: \$10	Status changes to pending. County office will review and approve.	Adult volunteers must complete screening and required trainings.
lf you forgot your password, click "reset password link" or contact the extension off.	Continue through each screen to update. You MUST update school, grade, clubs and projects.	Add and select a credit card to pay for fees. Do not select "pay by count check"	Payment is locked-in. Credit card is charged.	Status is changes to pending. Payment is locked-in. Credit card is charged.
Review and update family information.	Complete the Health and Consent Screens.	Select payment and agree to payment and refund terms.	Status changes to approved.	Status changes to approved after payment is received screening approved, and trainings completed.



## **4-H Projects**



Through the 4-H program, there are a variety of projects that a 4-Her can participate in. When talking about "projects" the 4-H program separates out all the projects offered into our Big 5 Project Areas (Ag & Livestock, Family & Community Health, Natural Resources, STEM, Leadership & Citizenship).

### Ag & Livestock

Program Area	Learning Opportunities & Contest	Time of Year
Beef Cattle	Major Livestock Shows, Livestock Judging, Livestock Quiz Bowl, Public Speaking/Educational Presentations, Meat Judging	Year round with contest taking place in Spring only exception Livestock Judging (fall).
Dairy Cattle	Major Livestock Shows, Dairy Judging, Livestock Quiz Bowl, Public Speaking/Educational Presentations	Year round with most contest taking place in spring.
Dog Care & Training	Fostering dogs, Compete in Dog Shows, Photography, Workshops, Career Exploration, Good Canine, Good Citizen Testing, Educational Presentations	Year round with workshops in Fall & Spring
Goats	Major Livestock Shows, Livestock Judging, Public Speaking, Educational Presentations, Mohair Judging, Skill-a-thons, Clinics	Year round with most contest will take place in Spring only exception Livestock Judging (fall).
Horse	Homes for Horse, Equine Ambassador, Horse Show (County, District State), Horse Judging, Hippology, Horse Educational Presentations	Year Round - with most contest being in the Spring
Horticulture	LGEG, Junior Master Gardener and Photography	Year Round
Meat Science	Meat Judging, Educational Presentations, Livestock Judging	Year round with most contest will take place in Spring only exception Livestock Judging (fall).
Poultry	Poultry Judging, Major Livestock Shows, Educational Presentations	Year Round - with most contest being in the Spring
Rabbits	Major Stock Shows, Texas 4-H Rabbit Extravaganza, Rabbit Advisory Board, Educational Presentations	Year Round - with most contest being in the Spring
Sheep	Major Livestock Shows, Livestock Judging, Livestock Quiz Bowl, Public Speaking/Educational Presentations, Wool Judging, Skill-a-thons.	Year round with most contest will take place in Spring only exception Livestock Judging (fall).
Vet Science	Vet Science Skill-a-thon, Vet Science Camps	Year Round - with most contest being in the Spring

#### Who Should You Contact?

For Livestock related questions please contact Steve Estes our Ag & Natural Resources Agent at steve.estes@ag.tamu.edu or (325) 672 6048

For Other General Ag related questions please contact Maggie McBride our 4-H Agent at margaret.louton@ag.tamu.edu or (325) 672 6048



## 4-H Projects

### Family & Community Health

<b>Program Area</b>	Learning Opportunities & Contest	Time of Year
Consumer Education	Consumer Decision Making, Public Speaking, Educational Presentation	Late Winter/Early Spring
Fashion & Interior Design	Duds to Dazzle, Fashion Show, Fashion Storyboard, Public Speaking, Educational Presentations, Sewing Camps & Workshops	Spring & Summer
Food & Nutrition	Beyond the Plate, Workshops, Food Show, Food Challenge, FCH Quiz Bowl, Healthy Lifestyles, Ag Product ID	Food Show & Food Challenge - Fall/Early Winter. All other contest are in Spring
Health & Personal Safety	Healthy Lifestyles, Educational Presentations, Public Speaking	Spring & Summer

#### Who Should You Contact?

For any Family & Community Health related questions please contact Kim Miles our FCH Agent at kim.miles@ag.tamu.edu or (325) - 672 - 6048

### Leadership & Citizenship

Program Area	Learning Opportunities & Contest	Time of Year
Community Service	Local service days, One Day 4-H, Self-lead Service Activities	Year round
Citizenship	National 4-H Week, 4-H Day at the Capitol, Texas 4-H Congress, National 4-H Conference, Commissioner Court Interpretation Days	Year round - with major events in Spring & Summer
Global Citizenship	Global Leadership Opportunities Beyond Education, International Exchange Programs (Outbound and Inbound), Global Citizenship Study Trip	Year Round - Big events in Summer
Leadership	Ambassador Programs (Equine, Fashion & Interior Design, HTYA, Livestock, Photography, Shooting Sports, Water, STEM), County & District Council, Club Officer, and Junior Leader.	Year Round
Public Speaking	Educational Presentations, Public Speaking, Speaking at club/county meetings, other 4-H contest.	Year round with most contest will take place in Spring
Theater & Performance Arts	Share-the-Fun	Spring
Workforce & Career Prep	Workshops, Facility/Industry Tours, YALL Tour, etc.	Year Round
Youth Entrepreneurship	Workshops, Learn Business Models, Shadowing Opportunities	Year Round

#### Who Should You Contact?

For any Leadership & Citizenship related questions please contact Maggie McBride our 4-H Agent at margaret.louton@ag.tamu.edu or (325)-672-6048

## 4-H Projects



#### **STEM**

Program Area	Learning Opportunities & Contest	Time of Year
Computer Science	Programming, Coding, Code Your World, CS Unplugged, Paper Circuits, Smart Circuits, MIT App Inventor	Late Winter/Early Spring
Photography & Video	Photography Contest, Photography Judging, TGCJLA Project Fair, SASSR Creative Arts, Workshops, Junior Master Photographer	Late Winter/Early Spring
Robotics	TAME Events, AgRobotics Contest, Robotics Challenge, GEAR Contest, Major Stock Shows, Camps, Workshops	Year Round
Rocketry & Aerospace	Workshops, Summer Camps, Team America Rocketry Challenge	Year Round & Summer
Science, Technology, Engineer, & Math	4-H STEM Challenge, Day Camps/Summer Camps, Discover Science Method Poster Competition	Year Round & Summer

#### Who Should You Contact?

For any general STEM-related questions please contact Maggie McBride our 4-H Agent at margaret.louton@ag.tamu.edu or (325) 672-6048

### **Natural Resources**

Program Area	Learning Opportunities & Contest	Time of Year
Entomology	Entomology Collections, Entomology Judging, Beekeeping Essay Contest, Photography Contest, Educational Presentation	Year Round
Forestry	National 4-H Forestry Invitational	Year Round
Outdoor Education & Living Skills	Texas 4-H Outdoor Challenge, Educational Presentations, Wildlife Challenge	Year Round & Summer
Range Science	Range & Pasture Grass ID, Range Evaluation, Soil Judging	Year Round & Spring
Shooting Sports	Postal Leagues, Indoor Archery, Roundup Archery, Indoor & Outdoor Rifle, Ambassador Opportunities, Educational Presentations	Year Round
Sportfishing	Outdoor Challenge, Wildlife Challenge, Educational Presentations	Year Round
Water Conservation & Education	Workshops, Camps, Lesson Plans, Water Ambassador	Year Round
Wildlife & Fisheries Who Should You (	Roundup Wildlife Challenge, Wildlife Habitat Education Project, Wildlife Contest at Major Stock Shows Contact?	Year Round

## For any general Natural Resources related questions please contact Maggie McBride our 4-H Agent at margaret.louton@ag.tamu.edu or (325)-672-6048





Each 4-H member is encouraged to keep a record of his or her 4-H work. Records are not an extra task, but a part of the learning experience! By your 4-her recording their activities they can keep track of all the different learning experiences, they have had in the 4-H program. Record Books are open to all age divisions (junior, intermediate, and senior age divisions).

Through 4-H Record Books, your 4-her will learn how to set goals, keep track of tasks/awards/contests, and reflect on what they learned throughout the year.

#### 4-H Record Books have four main parts:

- 1. Check Sheet
- 2. Personal Information Page
- 3. 4-H Story & Photo Portfolio
- 4. Report Forms

Record Book Categories Include:

- Agricultural Science
- Beef
- Citizenship & Civic Education
- Dog Care & Training
- Consumer Education
- Entomology
- Fashion & Interior Design
- Food & Nutrition
- Gardening & Horticulture
- Goat
- Health & Personal Safety
- Horse
- Leadership
- Natural Resources
- Photography
- Plant & Soil Science
- Poultry
- Public Speaking
- Rabbit
- STEM
- Sheep
- Shooting Sport
- Swine
- Theater & Performance Arts
- Vet Science

#### **For More Information**

Contact Maggie McBride at margaret.louton@ag.tamu.edu or at (325) 672-6048.

Additional Resources: <u>Record Book Family Guide</u> | <u>Additional Resources</u>

## **Additional Opportunities**



#### **Curriculum Enrichment**

Through the Taylor County Extension Office we offer a variety of programs in the schools to assist teachers with curriculum enrichment. If you are interested in these programs, contact our Extension Office.

#### **Taylor County 4-H Project Sheets**

At the end of every 4-H year, Taylor 4-H members are able to fill out a project sheet before the annual banquet to receive recognition at the banquet for your participation. These project sheets have different activities and projects listed that focus on club, county, district, and state-level 4-H opportunities. This form is released in June for you to fill out to turn in before the August banquet. For more information contact the Extension Office.

#### Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship

Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarships are academic scholarships awarded each year to applicants based on their academic record, 4-H experience, and financial need. Thanks to our generous donors, we are able to award over \$2.5 MILLION in scholarships to over 200 4-H members.

Apply Here: https://texas4hfoundation.org/what-we-do/

#### **Taylor County 4-H Scholarship Foundation**

Scholarships will be awarded to graduating high school senior 4-Hers who have been a member in good standing with the County 4-H program for the last 4 years. Scholarship selection will consist of leadership and personal development through 4-H; community and school participation and the student's desire to continue their education by attending an accredited institution of higher learning: university, community college, trade, or technical school in the fall following judging.

If interested in applying for the scholarships, contact our Extension Office.

#### Taylor County 4-H Livestock Ambassador Program

Taylor County 4-H Youth Livestock Exhibitors have the opportunity to become a Taylor County Livestock Ambassador. A total of 8 ambassadors will be selected by an application and interview process. The Taylor County 4-H Program wants to spotlight local youth who are passionate, driven, and dedicated to the livestock industry. This will be a good leadership opportunity for youth to give back to the local stockshow program, while also setting an example for the younger kids.

If interested, contact our Extension Office.

## What Happens When



J<u>anuary</u> -Taylor County Stock Show -Ft Worth Stock Show -District Food Challenge Contest

<u>May</u> -District Roundup Contests -Horse Show Entries -Senior Fashion Show -District Livestock Skill a Thon Contest -Shooting Sports Contests

#### October -One Day Community Service Projects -State Fair -Fall Heifer Validation -Lamb & Goat Validation -Gold Star Banquet -County Food Show Contest -Livestock Judging

<u>November</u> -Swine Validation -County & Major Stock Show Entries -Receive Broiler Projects -County & District Food Show Contests -District Livestock Judging Contest -Photography Workshop

<u>December</u> -Receive Rabbit Projects -Local Stock Shows -County Food Challenge Contest <u>February</u> -Ft Worth Stock Show -San Antonio Stock Show -San Angelo Stock Show -District Consumer Decision Making Contest -District Horse Judging Contest -Begin Shooting Sports Project -Clothing & Textiles Project Workshops

#### <u>March</u> -County Photography Contest -Houston Stock Show -Austin Stock Show -Begin Purchasing Steer Projects -Shooting Sports Practices -Clothing & Textiles Project Workshops -County Duds to Dazzle Contest

#### <u>April</u>

-Livestock Quiz Bowl Contests - FCH Quiz Bowl Contests - Order Steer Validation Tags -Order Lamb, Goat, & Barrow Tags for State Fair -Horse Project Validation -Shooting Sports Contests -District Duds to Dazzle Contest -County 4-H Horse Show -District Photography Contest -County 4-H Roundup

#### <u>June</u>

-Record books Due -State Roundup Contests -District Leadership Lab -Begin Purchasing Lamb & Goat Projects -District Horse Show -Steer Validation - Spring Heifer Validation -Lamb, Goat, & Barrow State Fair Validation -Shooting Sports Contests -Clothing Workshop

#### <u>July</u> -Prime Time Camps -State Horse Show -Junior/Intermediate Fashion Show -State Shooting Sports Games Food & Nutrition Project Workshops -Leadership Day/County Council

Elections

August Food & Nutrition Project Workshops -Order Lamb & Goat Validation Tags -Order Heifer Tags for Fall Validation -District Fall Planning Meeting -County Recognition & 4-H Kickoff Event