

4-H Family Handbook

2025-2026

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AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION



Taylor County

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Welcome



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,

Maggie McBride (*Louton*)

County Extension Agent | 4-H & Youth Development

Taylor County

Get Connected!



County Extension Office Location & Mailing Address

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

Website: <https://taylor.agrilife.org/4-h-information/> | Email: maggie.mcbride@ag.tamu.edu / amy.acosta@ag.tamu.edu

Phone: (325)-672-6048

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Taylor County Information

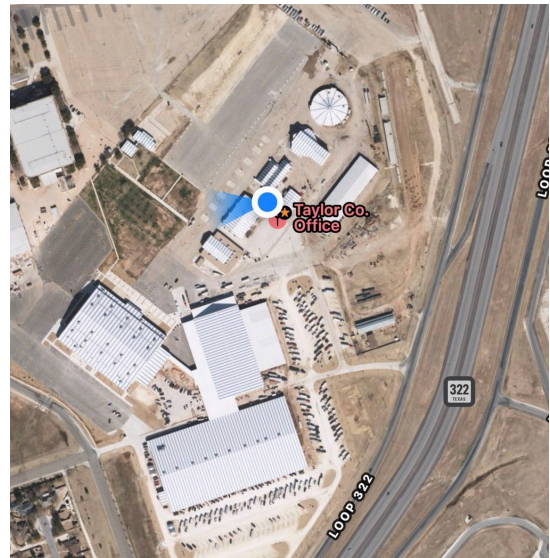
Have Questions?


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



 Facebook
[@taylorco4h](https://www.facebook.com/taylorco4h)

 Instagram
[@taylor_county_4h](https://www.instagram.com/taylor_county_4h)

 Remind Texts
Text @tayco4h to 81010

District 7 4-H

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

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

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: <https://v2.4honline.com/>


 Facebook
Texas 4-H

 Instagram
[@texas4h](https://www.instagram.com/texas4h)

 Twitter
[@texas4h](https://twitter.com/texas4h)

 Snapchat
[@texas4h](https://www.snapchat.com/add/texas4h)

 TikTok
[@texas4h](https://www.tiktok.com/@texas4h)

 YouTube
Texas 4-H Youth Development Program

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 [4-HOnline](#) 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 - These are clubs that focus on all aspect of 4-H.

Big Country 4-H Club | A community club for youth in Abilene, TX

Club Manager(s): Alison Callaway 979-255-9337 bigco.4h.24@gmail.com
Meeting Location & Day: Taylor County Extension Office | 3rd Monday of every month
Meeting Time: 6:30 pm
Additional Contact Info: Club Facebook: [@BIGCOUNTRY4-HCLUB](#)

Horse Club | A community club for youth in the Horse project.

Club Manager(s): Christina Fischer 928-830-3042 pilgrim_soldier_4_christ@yahoo.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

Jim Ned 4-H Club | A community club for youth in the Jim Ned/Tuscola and surrounding areas.

Club Manager(s): Karla Stephens, Katelyn Horner, Laura Ross, and Leslie Galovich jimned4h@gmail.com
Meeting Location & Day: Jim Ned HS Cafeteria | 1st Sunday of every month
Meeting Time: 2:00 PM
Additional Contact Info: Club Facebook: [@JimNed4-HClub](#)

Stampede 4-H Club | A community club for youth in the Merkel and Trent area.

Club Manager(s): Susan Patton qpon11@yahoo.com
Meeting Location & Day: First Financial Bank - Trent, TX | Nov. 6
Meeting Time: 6 p.m.

Wylie 4-H Club

Shooting Sports (**PROJECT GROUP ONLY**) | A project group exclusively for the Shooting Sports project - **DOES NOT COUNT AS A LOCAL CLUB**

Project Leader(s): Jody Peavy - Shotgun 325-660-4385 jodypv3@gmail.com
Rifle & Pistol 325-672-6048
Meeting Location & Day: Shotgun - every Saturday at Abilene Clay Sports
Meeting Time: Shotgun - 2 p.m.

In need of an Archery coach- if interested please contact our office!



How to Enroll

What's the Cost?

Youth Membership Fees

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

Adult Membership Fees

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

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

How Do You Enroll?

Head over to 4-HOnline (<https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in>) 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

Step 1		Step 2		Step 3		Step 4	
						Youth	Adult
Select to set-up up a profile. 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.		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.	
Create a password. Requirements will be displayed 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.	
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		Step 4	
						Youth	Adult
DO NOT create a new family profile.		Click enroll next to the member's name.		Review fees. Youth fees vary with date enrolled.		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.	
If 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.	
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).
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
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).

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 maggie.mcbride@ag.tamu.edu or (325) 672 6048



4-H Projects

Family & Community Health

Program Area	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
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

Who Should You Contact?

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

4-H Projects



STEM

Program Area	Learning Opportunities & Contest	Time of Year
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

Who Should You Contact?

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

Natural Resources

Program Area	Learning Opportunities & Contest	Time of Year
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
Wildlife & Fisheries	Roundup Wildlife Challenge, Wildlife Habitat Education Project, Wildlife Contest at Major Stock Shows	Year Round

Who Should You Contact?

For any general Natural Resources related questions please contact Steve Estes our ANR CEA steve.estes@ag.tamu.edu or Maggie McBride our 4-H Agent at maggie.mcbride@ag.tamu.edu or (325)-672-6048

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 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:

- Animal Agriculture
- Beef
- Citizenship, Civic Education & Community Service
- 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
- Range Science & Agronomy
- STEM
- Sheep
- Shooting Sport
- Swine
- Visual & Performance Arts
- Vet Science

For More Information

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

Additional Resources:

[Record Book Family Guide](#) | [Additional Resources](#)

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



September

- New 4-H Year Begins
- West Texas Fair (Livestock & Petting Zoo)
- Begin Purchasing Swine Projects
- Order Swine Validation Tags
- Order Rabbit Projects
- Order Poultry Project
- Food & Nutrition Project Workshops

January

- Sandhills Stock Show
- Taylor County Stock Show
- Ft Worth Stock Show
- District Food Challenge Contest
- Local Stock Shows

May

- District Roundup Contests
- Horse Show Entries
- Senior Fashion Show
- District Livestock Skill a Thon Contest
- Shooting Sports Contests

October

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

February

- Ft Worth Stock Show
- San Antonio Stock Show
- San Angelo Stock Show
- District Consumer Decision Making Contest
- Begin Shooting Sports Project

June

- 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

November

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

March

- County Photography Contest
- Houston Stock Show
- Austin Stock Show
- Begin Purchasing Steer Projects
- Shooting Sports Practices
- County Duds to Dazzle Contest
- District D2D/Fashion Show Contest

July

- Prime Time Camps
- State Horse Show
- State Shooting Sports Games
- Food & Nutrition Project Workshops
- Leadership Day/
- County Council Elections

December

- Receive Rabbit Projects
- County Food Challenge Contest
- HEB Feast of Sharing Community Service

April

- 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
- District Horse Judging Contest

August

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