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Making a Difference

In Navarro County

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN SCIENCES
Cooperative Extension Program

December 2025

Extension Newsletter for County Commissioners Court

What is 4-H?

Scholarship

Each year, the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program awards an estimated \$2.4 million in scholarships to high school seniors. In 2024, 25 youth from the Central District 8 earned \$318,000 in scholarship money for advanced education.

The youth from Bell, Bosque, Coryell, Ellis, Hamilton, Johnson, Leon, McLennan, Milam, **Navarro**, and Williamson Counties are seeking advanced degrees in fields such as Interdisciplinary Studies, Business, Marketing, Food Science, Agribusiness, Agricultural Leadership & Development, Poultry Science, Mechanical Engineering, Education, Food Science, Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Education, Business Management, Welding, Animal Science, Environmental Science, Kinesiology, Finance, Psychology, Physics, Biomedical Sciences, Electrical Engineering, Equine Science, Public Health, Agricultural Communication, and Nursing. Upon completion of their advanced degrees, many of the youth have indicated they would like to return to give back to the communities that helped make their futures possible.

The Texas 4-H scholarship program began in 1959. At that time, the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo awarded youth with scholarships in the amount of \$1,000. Today the largest scholarships are \$20,000 presented by the San Antonio Livestock Exposition & the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo. In 2025, the Texas 4-H Foundation will present the first \$30,000 scholarship to the overall top scholar.

In 2024, the scholarship program will celebrate 67 years of providing college scholarships to Texas 4-H members and continues to be the largest 4-H scholarship program in the United States.

4-H Project Work and Contests

4-H projects are the educational experiences in which youth who are 4-H members participate. A project is defined as consisting of 5-6 new learning experiences, leadership, community service, and exhibition of their project work. Youth engage in learning experiences through a variety of methods such as project meetings, workshops, tours, interviews, research, and more. All youth are encouraged to teach others about what they have learned to gain leadership skills and are also encouraged to help give back to their community. In addition, youth can engage in competitive events such as presentations, speeches, demonstrations, and/or record books. Adult volunteer leaders will help youth in setting and reaching their goals through their project work.

Big 5 Projects in District 8

Agriculture & Livestock	4076
Family & Community Health	1448
Leadership	1119
Natural Resources	1620
STEM	1351

Ag and Natural Resources Project Contest Areas

Dairy Cattle Judging	38
Holiday Classic	562



Lorie Stovall
CEA - Family Community Health



Cecily Nors
4-H—Youth Development



Horse Judging	86
Livestock Judging	160
Meat Judging	26
Rifle Match	83

Family & Community Health Project Contest Area

Fashion Show & Fashion Storyboard	65/12
Duds to Dazzle	96
Food Challenge	229
Food Show	95
Consumer Decision Making	190

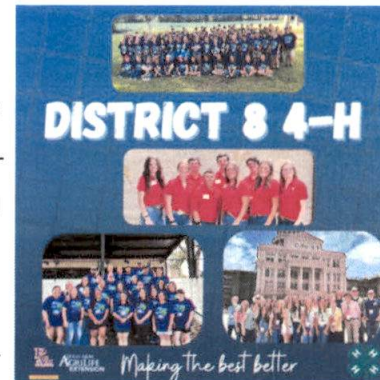
Leadership and Personal Development

Leaders 4 Life Skillathon	43
SURGE (Leadership Lab)	138
Photography Entries	126
Recordbooks (District & State Qualifiers)	266/24
Roundup (District & State Qualifiers/Representatives)	219/28
Quiz Bowls (FCH, Horse, & Livestock)	80

District 8 4-H SURGE (Leadership Lab)

The 4-H Youth Development Program prides itself on teaching leadership life skills to its youth members to grow into successful, contributing members of society in adulthood. One even that teaches and helps youth develop the life skills of our 4-H members is District 8 4-H SURGE (formerly known as Leadership Lab). It is a three-day, two-night program targeted at 4-H members in grade 8-12. District 8 boasts of having the largest participation in the state for the last several years.

Each year, we put a significant emphasis on learning life-skills through hands-on activities. At this year's camp, youth were challenged to push out of their comfort zone through numerous team building & communication skill building exercises. Students were presented with real-world application workshops to enhance their budgeting, interview, meal and personal etiquette and interpersonal skills. This year's camp was held in New Braunfels and afforded participants an "out-of-the-box" camp environment. Students were treated to a day at Schlitterbahn Water Park, where the interpersonal skills, manner education, and mental health awareness were prime educational targets.



The 2024 SURGE held a theme of "Living the 4-H Dream," where participants dreamt of their ideal 4-H project, future career, and life they wanted to live. **There were 114 students from 19 counties, with 25 County Extension Agents** chaperoning and facilitating this educational experience. This event continues to be the highlight of the 4-H year for many of our District 8 students.

Agriculture and Natural Resources:

County Tire Day:

36 volunteers collected **3** trailers full of tires.

R.A.C.E Trial:

Replicated Agronomic Cotton Evaluation

Ag Programming:

Homesteading Education: **21** participants

Watershed Education: **42** participants

Prescribe Burning Education: **17** participants

Hunter Education Course: **17** participants

Farm & Ranch Seminar: **11** participants

Auxin Training: **12** participants

Feral Hog Control Education: **22** participants

Master Gardener Trainings

Family & Consumer Sciences:

Health and Wellness Education to Prevent Chronic diseases

Walk Across Texas had **80 participants** who logged **19,389 miles**.

Maintain No Gain had **12 participants, 50% success rate**

Fall Wine Run/walk with **69 participants** & 6 HTYA volunteers

Healthy Heart, Healthy Life over nutrition and exercise reaching **65 senior individuals**

1 health related article printed monthly in two newspapers reaching over **4,000** readers.

Healthy County Wellness Coordinator

Held the annual Flu and Shot Clinic with for county employees and promote TAC health initiatives to earn back county rewards in the amount of **\$3660**

Early Childhood Coalition and Education

Market State CEU Programs with approximately **150** Navarro County students earning **600 hours** Early Childhood Development Education

Better Living for Texans (BLT)

Fresh Start to a Healthy You with **8 participants**

Homesteading program teaching canning, Gardening and Bee Keeping, **24 participants**

BLT Newsletters and recipes to Good News Café meal recipients,

250 quarterly

BLT Holiday newsletters and recipes for Compassion Corsicana

Food Pantry, **400 packets**

Souper Bowl of Caring collected **\$300 in cash and 162 items**

Youth & Better Living Texans Programs with Curriculum Coordinator, Marleigh Goolsby

Learn Go Eat Go (LGEG) and Early Childhood LGEG at Dawson ACE,

62 participants

Healthy Texan week with Safe canning and My Plate Nutrition,

25 participants

Healthy Texan Week with Dawson ACE, My Plate Nutrition,

62 participants

Healthy Texan Week Parent Café, Eating Through the Rainbow,

18 youth, 12 adult participants

Family Fitness Bingo and Healthy Meal Night,

18 youth, 18 adult participants

4-H and Youth Development:

Navarro County 4-H had **10** clubs during the **2024-2025** enrollment year with **247** youth members enrolled in community clubs and **349 direct and indirect** youth/adult volunteers and adult leaders. A total of **3,081** Navarro County youth have been reached thus far through face-to-face 4-H and curriculum enrichment programming. 4-H youth participated collectively through 4-H membership and various Agricultural literacy and educational programming efforts, including **2 Texas 4-H Shooting Sports Ambassadors, 1 Texas 4-H Fashion and Interior Design Ambassador, 5 Texas 4-H Healthy Youth Ambassadors and 1 Texas 4-H Livestock Ambassadors.**

- **Hatching in the Classroom:** Curriculum enrichment program brings biological and life sciences into the classroom providing hands-on experience of incubating and hatching chicks over a 3-week period. Allows students to learn the basics of life cycles, animal care, and responsibility. **612** youth in grades Pre-K-3rd and **53** adult volunteers participated in the program during the **2024-2025** school year that included **5 school districts** across Navarro County.
- **Water Education:** This curriculum enrichment program provides instruction and hands on opportunities to learn about water conservation, erosion, runoff, the effects of pollution, the water cycle and much more, while also providing teachers with TEKS aligned classroom resources to reinforce key points of information that students are required to know for the Science STAAR assessment. **123** 5th grade students, **21** teachers/paraprofessionals, participated in 3 hands-on/visual education days, also including another outside educational program.
- **Food and Fiber Round-Up:** In cooperation with the Navarro County Farm Bureau, Southwest Mobile Dairy, PR Equipment, and 4th grade students from across Navarro County learn about different agricultural products, services, and commodities. The program involved **599** students and **100** adult and youth volunteers.
- **Other:** **104** youth and **24** adult volunteers participated in summer workshops, fun days, and activities including sewing and Art, Science, Spa, Clover Camp, Crawfish Tour and Fossil Rim Field Trip. Career Days **893** youth. Backpacks of Love **275** youth. Gardening **136** youth.
- **Youth Involvement:** Texas 4-H Congress – **1**; Texas 4-H Roundup – **25**; State Photography Contest- **7**; Texas 4-H Natural Resources Photography Contest- **1**; Texas state 4-H Shooting Sports Extravaganza- **3**; State 4-H Shooting Sports Games – **22**; State 4-H Virtual Fishing Contest- **2**; State 4-H Dog Show- **3**; District 8 Ag Product ID Contest – **1**; District 8 4-H Council Officer- **1**; District 8 Food Show/Food Challenge Contest – **30**; District 8 Fashion Show – **15**; District 8 CDM Contest – **40**; District 8 Fashion Story Board Contest- **5**; District 8 Livestock Judging Contest- **1**; District 8 Photography Contest- **27**; District 8 Livestock Skill-a-thon- **2**; District 8 4-H Roundup – **14**; District 8 SURGE Camp – **5**; District 8 4-H Record books – **10**; Ag Texas Youth of the Month- **1**, **\$1,000** scholarship; Blackland Income Growth Conference Scholarship Recipient- **1**, **\$1,500**; Southeast District 8 County Camp – **41**; Navarro County 4-H Recognition Banquet – **35**; Navarro County 4-H Kick-off Event – **85**; Souper Bowl of Caring Event- **15**; Texas 4-H Scholarship recipient- **1**, **\$20,000**

Thanks for allowing me the opportunity to update you on the Extension educational programming in Navarro County and the efforts being made by your county Extension agents Lorie Stovall-Garcia, and Cecily Nors. They continue to provide programming which is in tune with our mission which is to provide quality, relevant outreach and continuing educational programs and services to the people of Texas. If you ever have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to give me a call at 254-968-4144 or e-mail at Jay.Kingston@ag.tamu.edu



Jay Kingston
District Extension Administrator