

4-H Youth and Livestock - Lubbock County 2019

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Relevance

Texas enjoys the largest youth livestock program in the nation and is unmatched in livestock project participation and support from donors. Statewide, Texas has 47,452 youth livestock exhibitors. The primary objective of the Texas 4-H Youth and Livestock community is to train, develop and reinforce important life skills in livestock, agriculture and natural resources to our youth. A variety of learning methods are incorporated to achieve this goal, including, but not limited to, meetings, contests, validations and shows. Most of the methods used are “hands-on” exercises with experts in each field of training. Aside from the important skills our youth learn, new opportunities and doors are opened for them through interaction with community leaders, sponsors and volunteers who attend or participate in our shows and programs. Texas has the highest participant totals in 4-H and FFA livestock projects in the country. In 2019, there were over 90,000 market and breeding entries for cattle, sheep, swine and goats across the state. Our 4-H Youth and Livestock programs are only possible through the dedication of our volunteers, community leaders and experts, who train, mentor, coach, fund projects and motivate our youth. A top priority of our program is the recruitment and training of volunteers which will ensure our youth will receive the best support. There is a realization in our organization that for our volunteers to take ownership and pride in the programs, they should be included in decision-making meetings, which consists of the planning and implementation stages of programs.

***Programs and shows are listed below along with information, highlights and results from them. ***
2019 Major Stock Show Results



-Lubbock County 4-H members exhibited 392 lambs, goats, steers, heifers, barrows and gilts in shows held in Lubbock County, Denver, Odessa, Ft Worth, San Antonio, San Angelo, Houston, Austin and Dallas Stock Shows.

-At major stock shows, Lubbock County 4-H members exhibited the following: **Heifers**- one Breed Champion, one Reserve Breed Champion, one Division Champion and two Reserve Division Champions. **Swine**- one Breed Champion, one Reserve Breed Champion. **Steers**- two Reserve Grand Champions, one Breed Champion, one Reserve Breed Champion and one Reserve Division Champion. **Lambs**- two

Grand Champions. **Goats**- several first, second, and third placings. **Ag Science Fairs**- one Reserve Champion. **Horse**- One Champion horse challenge. The results are posted on the “Lubbock 4H Livestock” Facebook page. 4-H members won \$10,000.00 in scholarships and over \$389,000.00 in prize money.

Livestock Judging Project and Results

The Livestock Judging project is an extension of the Livestock Project. The project runs six weeks during which 4-H members learn how to evaluate sheep, goats, swine and cattle. Participants also practice their public speaking skills by presenting to the class an evaluation what they have learned.

- Twenty-five 4-H members attended the livestock judging project.
- The Junior, Intermediate and Senior teams competed in several practice livestock judging contests.
- At the District Livestock judging contest, Lubbock had 4 Junior teams, 2 Intermediate teams and 1 Senior teams.
- The Junior teams placed 2nd, 3rd, 15th and 18th, Intermediate teams placed 2nd, 8th and 17th, senior team placed 3rd advancing to the State Judging contest held at College Station where they competed against teams from across the state.



District 2 Livestock Judging Contest

Wool Judging Project

The wool judging project lasts four weeks. It trains 4-H members on the skills needed to evaluate fleece for fineness, length and yield. Members are broken into groups and are expected to demonstrate the skills they have learned by ranking fleece and providing reasons as to why they ranked the fleece as they did. They are also taught to become familiar with all grading standards and evaluation techniques without the use of measuring devices as they are not allowed during a contest. This year 13 4-H members attended the training. They had an opportunity to practice the skills they learned at the District Wool Judging Contest where the Junior Team placed 1st and 3rd overall, the Intermediate Team placed 2nd and 3rd overall, Senior Team 1st overall.



District Wool Judging Teams

Livestock Camps and Clinics

Our livestock camps and clinics are aimed at teaching our 4-H youth and their parents proper care for their animals in everyday life, as well as in the competition arena (Livestock shows). Some of the things they learn are showmanship skills, daily care of their animal (cattle, swine, sheep, goats) and how to select feed. By allowing our 4-H youth and their parents to participate in the set-up, clean-up, working the arena, running scales and checking in contestants, they also receive knowledge and insight into the workings of hosting Livestock Competitions. This year 4-H members attended a Lamb and Goat camp held at Howard College. The Livestock Ambassadors also hosted a livestock clinic at Texas Tech University arena in which 75 adults and children attended. The classes were led by “ambassadors” or experts in the field. The Parent Leader Association helps to offset costs of camps and clinics by holding fund-raising events like the Sheep and Goat Jackpot held this year.



Showmanship Clinic (Goat group)

2019 Texas Livestock Ambassadors

Twenty-five students were selected to participate in the 2019 Texas Livestock Ambassador Program. The program was held at the Texas Tech University campus in July. The four-day course was delivered by university professors/staff, Texas AgriLife Extension faculty and industry representatives since it was an intense introduction of animal science principles. After completing the course, the students must contribute 40 hours to youth livestock projects and Texas animal agriculture. The students were later evaluated on knowledge gained in the areas of livestock production, career development opportunities, importance of higher education and leadership development in the field of livestock. Livestock Ambassadors also worked a “Commodity Carnival” Exhibit at the South Plains Fair bringing further awareness to the importance of agriculture.

Ag Literacy Efforts

“Ag in the Bag/Path to the Plate” Youth Agricultural Awareness Fair

The “Ag in the Bag” Youth Agricultural Awareness Fair began under the sponsorship of the Lubbock Chamber Ag Committee but now functions independently from the Chamber. Fourth grade students are targeted by the Fair in Lubbock County and other communities. Educational sessions in the topics of soil and water conservation, the Ogallala Aquifer, Texas agriculture, food science, meat science, sheep and goats, cotton, corn, peanuts, sorghum and dairy products are provided. This annual event reinforces our efforts to bring awareness of the importance of agriculture. With sponsors having realized the importance of this event, tremendous financial support has been received from companies and organizations such as South Plains Electric Cooperative, Capital Farm Credit, Ag Texas Farm Credit, Texas Tech University, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Texas Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Texas Farm Bureau, SW Dairy Farmers, Plains Cotton Growers, Texas Corn Producers, Texas Sorghum Producers, Texas Peanut Producers, Bayer Crop Science and numerous other companies and individuals. In 2019, the event was conducted at the Texas Tech Livestock Arena on October 15th - 17th. A total of 1111 students and 83 teachers participated in this event.

