

Making a Difference

2019-2020 Lubbock County 4-H Clovers

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Relevance

The mission of the 4-H Youth Development Program is to empower youth to reach their full potential, working and learning in partnership with caring adults. As the youth development program of the Cooperative Extension System of land-grant universities, 4-H is the nation's largest youth development organization, empowering six million young people throughout the United States. Cooperative Extension of 1862 and 1890 land-grant universities provide the leadership to engage young people in 4-H in all 3,007 counties of the United States. The impact of the Cooperative Extension partnership is profound, bringing together National Institute of Food and Agriculture of USDA, land grant universities and county government to resource learning opportunities for youth. Through the Positive Development of Youth: Comprehensive Findings from the 4-H Study of Positive Youth Development research project, the report determined that 4-H youth excel beyond their peers. 4-H'ers are about: four times more likely to make contributions to their communities (Grades 7-12); two times more likely to be civically active (Grades 8-12); two times more likely to make healthier choices (Grade 7); two times more likely to participate in Science, Engineering and Computer Technology programs during out-of-school time (Grades 10 – 12); and 4-H girls are two times more likely (Grade 10) and nearly three times more likely (Grade 12) to take part in science programs compared to girls in other out-of-school time activities.

Response

The 2015 Texas Community Futures Forum conducted in Lubbock County identified 4-H work, programs and leadership development as an issue to be addressed by the Lubbock County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. The Lubbock County 4-H Youth and Adult Advisory Board also determined that this issue should be addressed. Agent Alexander developed the 4-H Clover project as a way to further promote the Lubbock County 4-H program, ultimately increasing the total 4-H membership through Clover participation and graduating Clovers into the 4-H program.

The goals of the program were to:

- increase the involvement of 4-H Clovers (youth grades K - 2nd) in the Lubbock County 4-H Program through educational events, monthly meetings, activities, and project participation.
- encourage 4-H Clover participation in regular 4-H activities such as One Day 4-H, 4-H Barnyard, local 4-H club participation and county-wide 4-H community service projects.
- grow the 4-H membership through graduation of Clovers to regular 4-H members upon 3rd grade.
- provide opportunities for older 4-H'ers to develop their leadership skills; with older 4-H'ers assisting with the 4-H Clover Summer Day Camp and monthly project meetings.

Programming efforts to support this program included:

- Social Media promotion on the Lubbock County 4-H Facebook Page
- 8 Monthly 4-H Clover Newsletters
- 4 Monthly 4-H Clover project meetings (some meetings were cancelled due to weather and COVID)
- 1 4-H Clover Livestock project Tour
- 1 Community Service Activity
- 4-H Clover Summer Day Camp - Virtual
- Involvement in County 4-H Contests, Projects and Activities

Results

4-H Clover Project Series

- The Clover program and Clover opportunities were marketed through the 4-H Newsletter, a 4-H Clover Newsletter and the 4-H Facebook page
- 48 youth were enrolled in the Lubbock County 4-H Clover Program
- 50 4-H families with Clovers received the monthly 4-H Clover Newsletter, informing them of upcoming opportunities
- 20 Clovers participated in Clover project activities
- 7 Clovers participated in the 4-H Clover Day Camp; 7 Senior 4-H'ers assisted in conducting sessions
- 4 Clovers completed a Clover 4-H Project Form and were recognized at the County 4-H Achievement Banquet
- Clovers participated in 3 county competitions: fashion show, fashion storyboard and photography
- 4 Clovers also participated in the 4-H Barnyard at the South Plains Fair
- 11 4-H'ers graduated to 3rd grade and official 4-H enrollment



VALUE	
Character and Leadership Development	
A portrait of a young boy with dark hair, wearing a white t-shirt, looking directly at the camera.	Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's 4-H Youth Development Program teaches participants leadership skills and character traits. Participating youth become mentors, role models, and leaders in their schools and communities.
A handwritten note on a piece of paper that says 'FRUSTRATIONS - Slow off - mean people'.	

* Pictures taken in Fall of 2019