

## RELEVANCE

The mission of the 4-H and 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 Service of land-grant universities, 4-H is the nation's largest youth development organization, empowering six million young people throughout the United States.

The primary goal is to promote the child's stages of development - intellectually, physically, socially, and emotionally.

- Develop Self-Esteem
- Decision-Making Skills (making positive choices)
- Comprehensive Skills (learning how to learn; positive attitudes toward learning)
- Mastering Physical Skills (enjoying constructive and creative play)
- Social-Interaction Skills (getting along with others)
- Diversity Skills (acceptance of others; exploring family and community relationships)

Children possessing these life skills are less likely to have problems with drug use, school failure, delinquency, and depression as they move into their teenage years and then into adulthood.

## 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.
- grow the 4-H membership through graduation of Clovers to regular 4-H members upon 3rd grade.

## VALUE STATEMENT

### 4-H Leadership Development

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.



### Parents of 4-H Clover Participants Reported:

#### 4-H Clover's:

- Had fun
- Learned about 4-H Projects
- Made New Friends
- Developed Social Skills
- Learned about 4-H
- Learned How to Work with Others
- Developed New Interests
- Learned the 4-H Motto and Pledge

## RESPONSE CONTINUED

- 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.

- 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.

Educational opportunities to support this program included:

- 10 monthly Clover Newsletters
- 8 monthly Clover meetings
- 1 Tour
- 1 Summer Day Camp
- 1 Community Service Project
- Participation in 3 County-wide activities which included: the photography project and contest, the 4-H Barnyard and the South Plains Fair Youth Division
- Social media promotion on the Lubbock County 4-H Facebook page



## EVALUATION STRATEGY

Evaluation strategies used for 4-H Clovers to measure knowledge gained, behavior change & adoption of best practices included retrospective post tests completed by parents, observation of program participants and participation in other 4-H 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.
- 29 youth were enrolled in the Lubbock County 4-H Clover program.
- 30 4-H families with Clovers received the monthly 4-H Clover Newsletter, informing them of upcoming opportunities.
- 16 Clovers participated in Clover project activities.
- 8 Clovers participated in the 4-H Clover Day Camp; 5 Senior 4-H'ers assisted in conducting Clover sessions.
- 1 Clover completed a Clover 4-H Project Form and was recognized at the County 4-H Achievement Banquet.
- Clovers participated in 2 county competitions: 4-H Photography Contest and youth division entries at the South Plains Fair.
- 3 Clovers participated in the 4-H Barnyard at the South Plains Fair.
- 4 4-H Clovers graduated to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and are officially enrolled in 4-H.



## VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT

Seven Lubbock County Senior 4-H members assisted in providing monthly 4-H programs, hosting site tours and Summer Camp sessions for 4-H Clovers to participate in.



## FUTURE PROGRAMMING

The 4-H Clover Project will continue to be offered for Lubbock County youth to participate in, in order to provide opportunities for leadership, growth and development.

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