

April 2018

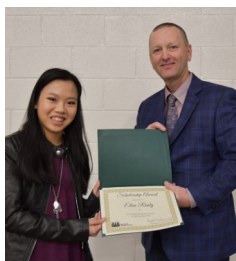
Extension Newsletter for County Commissioners Court

What is 4-H?

Scholarship

Each year, the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program awards an estimated \$2.2 million in scholarships to high school seniors. In 2021, 36 youth from the Central District 8 earned \$421,500 in scholarship money for advanced education.

The youth from Bell, Bosque, Coryell, Ellis, Hamilton, Hill, Hood, Johnson, Leon, McLennan, Milam, Navarro, and Robertson Counties are seeking advanced degrees in fields such as Interdisciplinary Studies, Business, Marketing, Food Science, Agribusiness, Agricultural Leadership & Development, Poultry Science, Mechanical Engineering, Bilingual Education, Culinary Arts, Social Work, Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Education, Business Management, Welding, Animal Science, Environmental Science, Kinesiology, Finance, Art Education, Psychology, Physics, Biomedical Sciences, Electrical Engineering, Equine Science, Public Health, Agricultural Communication, Pre-law, Electrical Power & Controls, Chemistry, Early Childhood Education, 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 2022, the scholarship program will celebrate 65 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 recordbooks. Adult volunteer leaders will help youth in setting and reaching their goals through their project work.

Big 5 Projects in District 8

Agriculture & Livestock	6049
Family & Community Health.....	5653
Leadership.....	1437
Natural Resources.....	3269
STEM.....	944

Ag and Natural Resources Project Contest Areas

Dairy Cattle Judging.....	27
Holiday Classic.....	492



Gary Pastushok, CEA-AG and Natural Resources
Katie Sharpton CEA-Family & Community Health
Brittany Allen, CEA-4-H Youth Development
Kate Whitney, CEA-Horticulture
Shelley Franklin, CEA-Natural Resources
Heidi Fowler, -Better Living for Texans

Horse Judging.....	25
Horse Show.....	91
Livestock Judging.....	162
Meat Judging.....	9
Rifle/Light Rifle.....	47 & 70

Family & Community Health Project Contest Area

Fashion Show & Fashion Storyboard	65 & 15
Duds to Dazzle.....	24
Food Challenge.....	191
Food Show.....	94
Consumer Decision Making.....	138

Leadership and Personal Development

Leaders 4 Life Skillathon.....	30
SURGE (Leadership Lab).....	93
Photography Entries.....	436
Recordbooks (District & State Qualifiers).....	267 & 58
Roundup (District & State Qualifiers/Representatives).....	161 & 434
Quiz Bowls (FCH, Horse, & Livestock)	

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 the Ropes Course. They were then challenged to find their inner scientist and solve the mystery of the STEM Escape Room & their inner grill master with our Grilling & Outdoor Cooking workshop. Finally, our youth were given the opportunity to explore Longhorn Caverns and learn about the history and science behind those caverns.



District 8 4-H
Making the Best Better

Agriculture and Natural Resources:

- *Tri-County Cow-Calf Workshop* was held Jan 6, 2022 and included sessions on marketing cattle, pasture weeds, livestock nutrition, and producer-owned processing facilities (135 attendees).
- *The Small Grains and Cover Crops Field Day* was held on April 27, 2021. Topics included new wheat and oat varieties and cover crop choices, and winter weed management (12 attendees).
- *The 1st Annual Fiber Hemp Variety Grower Field Day*. Topics included: agronomy and performance of varieties, legal issues, sourcing seedstock and the best management practices (50 attendees).
- *The Blackland Income Growth Conference* was held in Waco on January 11. The Grains Session held a market/fertilizer updates, pest management in corn and sorghum, and a CEU-supported session on sprayer design and managing sprayer drift (28 attended).
- *D8 Farm and Ranch Seminar*: This 8-CEU event was held on December 9 2021. Topics included Pesticide Laws and Regulations; Pasture pests; Feral Hog Programs, Weeds and Brush management; Vectors, and pesticide handling (38 attended).
- *Master Naturalists*: The *Goodwater Branch* has 143 active members who logged 10,397 volunteer hours in 2021.

Family & Consumer Sciences:

- *Wellness Wednesday*: weekly social media posts to inform community on healthy topics and recipe video demonstrations. 13 total posts with 2,044 engagements.
- Better Living for Texans (BLT)
- As of February 2022, there were 11,458 SNAP recipients and 27,186 SNAP-eligible residents in Williamson County. The BLT Program provides free nutrition education classes for adult and youth SNAP-eligible audiences.
- *Get the Facts* is an on-going series with Foster Grandparents (12 participants).
 - *Walk N Talk* is an on-going series with Boys & Girls Club of Georgetown (20 participants). *Learn Grow Eat Go* series anticipated start April 2022 with Boys & Girls Club of Georgetown.
 - *A Fresh Start to a Healthier You* is an on-going series with San Gabriel Apartments-Liberty Hill (3 participants).
 - *Get the Facts* is an on-going series with Annunciation Maternity Home (5 participants).
 - *Walk N Talk (2 different series) & Choose Healthy* with Bartlett ISD BARK CAMP to be completed in June-July 2022.

Horticulture:

- *Lawn & Garden 101* is a seven week series to teach basic home lawn and garden topics for new residents in Williamson County. (89 participants)
- *Green Thumbs Up Gardening* is a monthly series held at three locations in the county: Round Rock Public Library, Cedar Park Public Library, and Brushy Creek Community Center
- *Hands on in the Garden* is a monthly gardening class held at the Master Gardener demonstration garden
- *Vegetable Conference* was held on April 6, 2022. Topics included weed and pest management, organic vegetable production, high tunnels to extend the season (50 participants)
- *The Pecan Field Day* was held on March 22, 2022. Topics included strategies for new pecan disease, terminal leaf dieback, pecan scab, pest control, and orchard management (22 participants)
- 32 interns completed the Master Gardener Volunteer Certification program in the Fall of 2021. The volunteers will complete 50 volunteer hours to become certified volunteers.

4-H and Youth Development:

- Youth enrollment **492**; Adult volunteers **108**; **16** Clubs
- Curriculum enrichment is a large part of the youth development program. This year we have reached **782** Williamson County youth in public schools, private schools, and homeschools through curriculum enrichment. The most popular program is the Egg to Chick program, which allows students to observe and learn about the life cycle of a chick through the incubation and hatching process. We have also provided lessons on horticulture, and hope to soon add STEM-related programs.

4-H Youth Leadership and Personal Development

- **27** County Council members
- **2** Texas 4-H Livestock Ambassadors
- **4** Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors
- **1** Texas 4-H Healthy Youth Ambassadors
- **2** Texas 4-H Fashion and Interior Design Ambassadors
- **1** District 8 4-H Council Member
- Williamson County Extension Education Association awarded 2 scholarships to Williamson County 4-H members.

Shooting sports:

Williamson County boasts **209** Shooting Sports Club members in five disciplines: rifle, pistol, shotgun, black powder and archery. Young Guns HOA at SALE—\$10,000 Scholarship, HOA at HLSR—\$1,000 Scholarship

Williamson County Livestock Show & Youth Fair:

- **135** exhibitors with **400** entries
- Highlights include: 5 Grand Champion Animals and 6 Reserve Champion Animals
- Williamson County Youth Fair was held December 7-10 in Taylor, TX. We had a total of 706 project entries with 24 Best in Show exhibits auctioned at the live auction in conjunction with Williamson County Livestock Show.
- Texas Major Livestock Shows:
- 88 Youth Livestock Exhibitors & 32 Contest Participants
 - Highlights: Scholarships for: Champion Beef Challenge \$16,000 (FWSS), High Point Individual Livestock Judging \$10,000 (SALE) and Champion Turkey \$10,000 (SALE)

Thanks for allowing me the opportunity to update you on the Extension educational programming in Williamson County and the efforts being made by your county Extension agents Kate, Katie, Brittany, Gary, Heidi, and Shelley. 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 ext.204 or e-mail at d-kelm@tamu.edu.



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