

"TO MAKE THE
BEST BETTER!"
-4-H
FOREVER AND
EVER BY WEBB
COUNTY!

The 4-H Webb

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4

DECEMBER 2010

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- 4-H Days
- New Agent
- New Year, New Opportunities
- The empHasis Project...
- Meet the Webb!
- Clover Corner

WELCOME!!!—Agent's Address

The month of December is a busy time of year. People are decorating trees and putting up lights. Making all sorts of places look merry and bright! People are also doing a lot of shopping for gifts for the special people in their lives.

As we wrap up the 2010 year, many things are coming to an end. However that gives us the chance to look back and see how far we've come. Many changes have taken place over the last few months and I'd like to take the time to thank everyone for being patient and supportive during these changes.

During the Christmas season, I

tend to reflex on all the things that are important to me. As I prepare for the new year that is just around the corner, I reflect on the past year and try

to figure
out
the
things
that
are



important. In light of that thinking, 4-H is slowing down for the month to allow our families to have time to themselves during the holidays. I hope each of you enjoys them very much and I look forward to kicking off the new year with you!

Please remember that we have a Comments and Suggestions mailbox in the County Extension Office where each of you can drop off suggestions for the 4-H program.

This is a POSITIVE suggestions mailbox only though so please make sure to only put HELPFUL comments and suggestions in it. You are more than welcome to share any complaints with me in person so we can work to solve any major problems as quickly as possible.

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas...

Christine R. Sanchez
County Extension Agent
4-H and Youth Development
Webb County
crsanchez@ag.tamu.edu

Deck the Halls... Well at least the Dance Hall



As the 4-H program is also getting into the spirit of Christmas and the winter festivities, we have been doing our fair share of decorating. We have

been painting branches to make winter trees, and wrapping boxes for presents. We have been hanging ribbon and garlands.

We have also been untangling stored lights to be put up so they can add to the bright cheerfulness that will create the wonderful

atmosphere for our First ever 4-H Winter Dance! The Dance hall is starting to look pretty festive so I hope everyone is getting ready to come and celebrate with us!

The Dance is on Dec. 10th from 7-11 p.m. and tickets are on sale at the Extension office for \$5 presale...

Merry Christmas to Seasons Greetings



"Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!"



A Special Place of Recognition to all of our hardworking members!

December is a month that has a magical feel to it. Many people make plans to attend family gatherings and spend time with those they love and hold close. It is also the time of year that people call out merry greetings to strangers and extend feelings of joy with those they pass on the street, well at least they do in the movies.

Over the years, we have been able to see the changing times even in this joyous season. This time of year used to be filled with the calling of "Merry Christmas" to others. Now, with the identification and respect

for others, greetings have become "Happy Holidays" or "Seasons Greetings" or some other non-offending call of salutations.

The focus of children has also come to rest on the materialistic items that they hope to find under a highly decorated tree. People, myself included, tend to focus on getting "stuff" up on the walls and hung on the outsides of our homes, and getting "stuff" bought to give away others. Sometimes, though, the "stuff" is bought or done to outdo someone else or in order to get something better in return or with some tiny feeling of greed.

I am not here to preach or to say that I have never done this, because that would not be true. I just hope that sometime during this season, we can stop to focus on the more important things in life, the things that require more thought and commitment than material things.

Something like a shared laugh, a hug for a friend., sharing that last piece of pie, a prayer led by a child, the look of pure joy on a face when that perfect gift is received. Things that, after the changing styles and fades pass, are still remembered and treasured.

Recognition Central!!!

As we take a look at the year that we are finishing up, we get to look back at the accomplishments of our 4-Hers...

In February was the LIFE Fair where 4-H members competed with livestock, baking, sewing, and canning projects. We had many, many members make the sale and receive recognition for all their hard work.

In April, we had several 4-H members represent Webb County at the

District fashion show and do really well.

In September, one of our very own members exhibited a hog at the State Fair of Texas show in Dallas and place 9th! Congrats to Hannah Selman!

In October, we recognized many members and volunteers for their hard work for last 4-H year.

Then already in December, we had 8 members compete at the District Food Show as well as 2 Food Challenge teams. Our Senior Food

Challenge team will be going to State this year... Congrats to Margaret Medellin, Rebekka Sanchez, and Nancy Pedraja! LIFE Queen contest was also held that same day and Congratulations goes to the LIFE Court. LIFE Queen is Christen Castro, 1st Runner-up is Catherine Asmussen, and 2nd Runner-up is Libbie Saunders!

All of this in the last few months... Can't WAIT to see what the new year will hold for Webb County!!!

Meet the Webb...

The foundation of any 4-H program are the members. Without them, there is no program and no need for volunteers or agents. So, in an effort to recognize the importance of this foundation for a strong program, I would like to introduce the Spinnerets of Webb County!

This group of individuals are parts of club experiences that allow them to develop into FANTASTIC young men and women. Each member plays an important role in the program but some times there is just a little more effort put forth by certain members allowing others to lean on them for support, upholding the entire program a little at a time-much like the parts of a spider web.

“There are many parts of a spider web that makes it functional, just like our 4-H program.”

There are many parts of a spider web that makes it functional just

like our 4-H program. Support Threads are the first spun threads that allows the spider

to create the rest of the web. After laying these Support Threads, the spider reinforces the center to create strength for the Radial Threads which will later support another part of the web.

The center which the spider reinforced is called a Hub which is the starting place for the circular pattern



which consists of Spiral Threads, resting on the Radial Threads. The Spinnerets are the part of the Spider that makes all of this creation possible!

So, without further ado, this edition’s Spinnerets!

This edition of the 4-H Webb includes a mini-highlight of each club and their goals and plans for the upcoming 4-H year. This section will highlight the 4-H members and their hard work giving a monthly summary of the events that each club is doing.

Clubs: Meeting Times and Locations

Bangora 4-H Club meets at the Extension Conference Room on the 2nd Sunday of the month

Brush Country 4-H Club meets at the E. J. Salinas Community Center Library in Mirando City.

Cactus Country 4-H Club meets at 3416 Logan Ave.

Comanche 4-H Club meets on the 2nd Sunday of the month in the Extension Conference Room and at the D. & J. Alexander Ranch for clinics.

El Cielo 4-H Club meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the LIFE Restaurant at 6:30 p.m.

Del Norte 4-H Club meets at 1111 Eisenhower Dr.

Lone Star 4-H Club meets at United Day School at 6:00 p.m on the second Thursday of the month.

Los Amigos 4-H Club meets in the Extension Office Conference Room the 2nd Sunday of every month at 2 p.m.

Los Vaqueros 4-H Club meets the 1st Sunday or every month at the County Extension Office Conference Room at 3:00 p.m.

Lucky Clover 4-H Club meets at various Adult Leaders’ Homes on the 2nd Monday or Wednesday of the month.

Mesquite Rangers 4-H Club meets at the Laredo Rifle Club.

Mustang 4-H Club meets at Nixon High School in Room V10 or V7 on the 1st Thursday of every month during the school year after the school day concludes.

Shooting Sports 4-H Club meets at the South Texas Shooting Complex on Highway 359 on the 1st Wednesday of the month.

Stallions 4-H Club meets at United High School on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at the end of the school day.

Teamwork 4-H Club meets at Grace Bible Church on the 3rd Thursday of the month.

United South 4-H Club meets at United South Middle School on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 4:15

Webb County 4-H Council meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at the County Extension Office Conference Room.

Bangora Brush Country Cactus Country

The goal of Brush Country 4-H Club this year was a challenge for each member to try at least 1 new project. Hat off to Marshall Gomez, Kimberly Pena and Michael Pena who are participating in the Shooting Sports program. Andrew Rodriguez and Marshall Gomez were first time participants in the Webb County Food Show ; and Aimee Garcia and Kirsten Chapa were repeat participants. All four were top winners in their categories. Andrew & Marshall competed in the District Food Show in Falfurrias (Aimee had a UIL meet that day and received 1st place in Number Sense) On Dec. 5th the club held their 10th annual Holiday Jamaica and it was a big success--raising over \$1200.

During the past 3 months Cactus Country 4-H members have participated in numerous community activities. On Oct. 9th, members participated in a community neighborhood canned food drive was donated to the Sisters of St. John. Members learned that 2 of the sisters were past 4-H members. Oct. 29th several members with their parents participated in the Texas Youth Hunt Program Deer Hunt at the Summers-El Ranchito Ranch. On Nov. 13th, members participated in the County Food Show. On Nov. 23rd, members assisted during the Special Olympics Texas Area Bowling Competition. On Nov. 13th, Members and their families shared an afternoon during the Thanksgiving Feast. During the month of November, members have also taken part in the 4-H Dance Lessons as part of the empHasis project sponsored by 4-H Council.

Comanche El Cielo Del Norte

Our club members have been stayin' busy with their livestock projects and by practicing for the LIFE Bake-Off. In Oct. our Annual Halloween Club Spook-Takular Desserts Show was held. Our members showcased and competed with their favorite desserts. All desserts were delicious & tasty! Winners were: Denisse Lopez-Most Creative, Elexis Cordova-Healthiest, and Alexis Lopez-Sweetest Desserts. Judging the desserts was Ms. Tina Trevino. A club lamb/goat clinic was also held in Nov. for all our members in preparing for LIFE 2011. The Comanche 4-H Club Officers want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year! Join us on Facebook Isabel Garza/Comanche

Happy Holidays from El Cielo 4-H Club looking forward to a Prosperous New Year hope to see you at our 2nd Annual Prospect Show for Goats and Lambs to be held on January 15, 2011 at L.I.F.E Grounds. Entry fees are \$20 per lamb and goat entry. Showmanship is divided into Junior, Intermediate, and Senior classes and the entry fee is \$5 at the gate. Weigh in and classification is from 7-9 a.m. Judge is Mr. Rogelio Mercado

For more info please contact:Mr. Jaime Cantu (956) 401-5575, Mr. Roel Gonzalez (956) 237-0786, or Mr. Rene Rocha (956) 237-0815

Lone Star Los Amigos Los Vaqueros

The Lone Star 4-H is one happening club. We focus on helping the community, each other, our livestock, and everything in between. And one thing's for sure – we have fun doing it! Our club is very close, and everyone helps each other. Our project leaders also do everything they can to help us and ensure a great and fun year. The Lone Star 4-H club prides itself in our community service projects. Our number one community service project is our Diaper Drive for the Child Protective Services. Other projects include our petting zoo at the United Day School Fall Carnival; our Thanksgiving turkey giveaway to help families that attend San Carlos Mission; our December toy drive which leads up to a trail ride with the VIP Trail Riders in order to handout the toys to the children of San Carlos Mission. If you're interested, take a peek at our Facebook page "Lone Star 4H."

Lucky Clover Mesquite Rangers Mustang

Shooting Sports Stallions Teamwork

We will be holding a Fundraiser Shoot on Thursday December 16th from 6pm till 9 pm at the South Texas Shooting Complex located on highway 359 nine (9) miles from loop 20 on right side. This event is open to all 4-H members, Parents, as well as anyone interested. This is a 75 target event. Prizes will be awarded in many different divisions.

Our club remains open for participation by any 4-H members. Our practices are held every Tuesday from 6-8 pm.

For Info please call Vidal Cantu 956-237-1775

The Teamwork 4-H'ers are anxiously awaiting the events of L.I.F.E. Whether at the bake-off or animal competition, the club is looking forward to it. Hog selection for club members was particularly unique this year. The club visited the farm of a breeder where an educational project experience was the order of the day. Not only did we select our project animals but received a full tour of the breeding facilities which house about 300 sows and 25 boars. The group discussed care (of sow and boars), feeding, sow cycling, and facility management during the tour. Hannah Selman, the only exhibitor from Webb County at the State Fair of Texas, placed 9th in her class.

United South County Council Webb at large

United South 4 H has been busy. All of our livestock projects are in place. We will have four lambs, one goat, eight rabbits, and two poultry projects. Photography and clothing project planning will be underway soon and hopefully we will have Round Up participants, and more importantly we will have record books.

Our most exciting news is our Senior Food Challenge team is advancing to state! They won first place in the main dish category, at the district food challenge. Our intermediate food challenge team won a blue ribbon, so our future looks good. Three seniors participated in the Food show, while two intermediate members participated in the food show.

4-H Winter Dance is Dec. 10th at 7 p.m. Come join the fun! Also, Council would like to remind everyone to look for upcoming council events in the new year... We have rock climbing, 4-H Open B.A.R., and other activities coming up and would LOVE to see you there! We are also planning a few more car washes and other events to have fun with. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!

As we wrap up one year and look forward to starting a new year, we have been keeping busy! The 2011 year looks like a promising year full of fun, leaning, exploring, and making friends. We invite you to check out Webb County's 4-H program and join in on all the fun! You may just make a new friend or learn something great!

Livestock update!!!



It's getting to be that time of year again... Many of our members are busy getting everything in line for LIFE in February. Entries for all livestock projects are in and checked. Validation for Steers, Lambs, Goats, and Swine are all finished.

Prospect shows are taking place all around. Entries for all Major Shows have been turned in and forms submitted. We are well on

our way for another successful year of livestock project experiences for our 4-H members.

Please remember to keep on top of your projects. Weighing, worming, trimming, and daily care becomes more important as show time gets closer. Also as the weather changes, it is important to keep an eye on your animal to make

sure you are providing enough shelter, water, and exercise to keep your animals healthy and in top condition.

Participation in prospect shows also helps in learning how to best present your animals as well as getting them used to the grooming and care needed at the show.

All it takes is a few interested members and a willing volunteer to start a new project!

Upcoming Projects!

Our 4-H Dog Project is kicking off. Any members interested can talk to their club manager or come by the office for more information.

We are in the beginning stages of planning our Open B.A.R. so anyone wanting to help with that should attend the Council meeting in January.

We will also be planning

to kick off the second activity session of the Health portion of the empHasis project in the form of Rock Climbing. Details with this activity will be passed along as we get those details sorted out.

Also, we will be collecting care package supplies to be sending overseas to our troops starting in the new year. Please look for more information on that.

In addition to the care packages, we are hoping to send letters and cards of thanks to our troops. Without them, we would not be where we are today. If you are interested in being a part of this project please contact the Extension office.



“4-H is designed to make a difference.”

Clover Corner

On the back side of this newsletter, there is a special portion for the Clover Kid in each of us. Please feel free to have your clover kid do the activity, color the picture, cut it out and bring it by the office to be displayed in the Clover

Patch along with pictures of 4-H members doing 4-H activities. Look here for upcoming Clover Kid activities and events that may interest our future 4-H members. We will be planning game days and Clover Kid focused activities in

the new year. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to drop them off in the suggestion box at the Extension office.



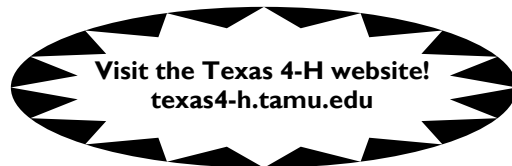
4-H in Webb County

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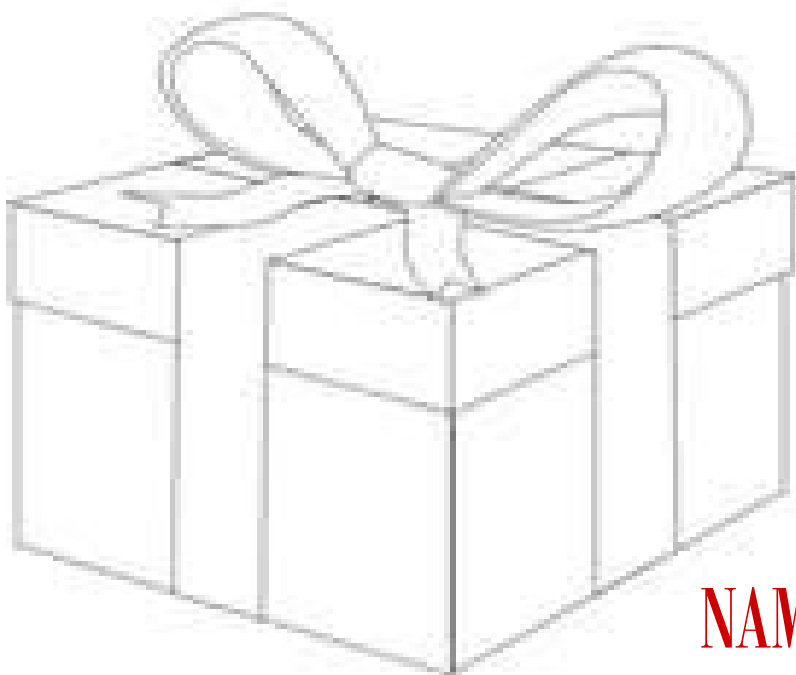
Texas 4-H offers a **TON** of opportunities for today's communities. We invite you to come check out our local program and learn what a difference our program can make in your life. Young or old, we have a place and a need for your participation to help our program grow.

If you would like to learn more about the 4-H program and what you can do to become a part of a **GREAT** program, please feel free to call the local extension office at the number on the left. Please ask for our 4-H agent, **Christine Sanchez**. She would be delighted to talk to you!



Clover Corner

The Future of 4-H rests on the younger sibling, friends, and members of the community so we can't leave them out of the Webb! This portion is designed with these young people in mind...



NAME: _____

Color and Cut it out for it to be posted in the Extension Office!
On the big present write something you would like to give the world for Christmas...