



4-H and Youth Development Newsletter for Williamson County
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Web page: <http://williamson-tx.tamu.edu/4H/index.html>

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State's Agricultural Agencies Change Names, Renew Missions College Station

Two state agricultural agencies that have served Texans for a combined 224 years are beginning 2008 with new names and renewed missions.

Texas AgriLife Research is the new name for the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, which annually conducts more than \$150 million in agriculture and life sciences research in such areas as improving food and fiber production, enhancing human and animal health, and conserving water, soils, wildlife and other natural resources.

The Texas AgriLife Extension Service is the new name of Texas Cooperative Extension, which provides Texans in all 254 counties with non-biased, research-based education programs and services in agriculture and natural resources, 4-H and youth development, family and consumer sciences, and community economic development.

"We are making these changes to better communicate the life-sustaining and life-changing impacts that both AgriLife Research and AgriLife Extension deliver to the people of Texas and beyond," said Dr. Mark Hussey, director of AgriLife Research.

Both agencies remain members of The Texas A&M University System, with the same commitment to their partners, clients and mission.

The name changes are part of a re-branding initiative launching this year after two years of study and planning. These efforts were led by former Vice Chancellor Dr. Elsa Murano, who was named President of Texas A&M University on Jan. 3.

"People usually don't realize how much we all depend on agriculture and the life sciences. Discoveries and innovations in these fields directly impact the quality of the food we eat, the clothes we wear, the air we breathe, the water we drink, the homes we live in, and, more and more, even the fuels we pump into our vehicles."

"The re-branding efforts are centered on one foundational message: 'Agriculture is Life!'" Hussey said. "The central idea is that life itself is the core value that our agencies seek to sustain and enhance.

Current major research includes the efficient use and conservation of water resources, the development of fruits and vegetables with higher levels of disease-fighting compounds, and the adaptation of crops and other agricultural products for making biofuels.

AgriLife Extension, established in 1915, provides Texans with continuing education programs and services. More than 900 professional educators team with some 90,000 volunteers to serve families, youth, communities and businesses throughout the state. Some 600,000 children annually participate in Extension's 4-H and youth development programs.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY

- 2 Youth Day-San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo
- 2-3 District 8 4-H Fashion Retreat
- 4 Youth Fair Meeting-7:30 pm @ CEO
- 4 Round Rock 4-H Valentine Craft Night 6:30 pm
- 5 Major Show Broiler Pick-Up
- 7 Texas 4-H Foundation Scholarship – [Deadline](#)
- 8 4-H County Fashion Show Paperwork [Deadline](#)
- 13 EEA Scholarship [Deadline](#)
- 15 4-H County Fashion Show
- 26 Texas 4-H Collegiate Scholarship [Deadline](#)
- 27 Texas 4-H Courageous Heart Scholarship [Deadline](#)

MARCH

- 4- County Council Mtg. 6:30 pm @ CEO
- 13 Adult Leaders Mtg 6:30 pm @ CEO
- 19 Adult Leaders Scholarship [Deadline](#)

Rob Hardy, Club Manager of Hoopicks wishes to highlight the outstanding showing of their members in their tireless efforts to promote high quality horse judging teams at the statewide level. These are skills that have applications in many areas, and teach discipline, teamwork, and leadership!



FASHION SHOW BUSINESS

4-H COUNTY FASHION SHOW

Friday, February 15, 2008
5:00 pm @ CEO
All paperwork due by
February 8, 2008

2008 DISTRICT 8 4-H FASHION SHOW

March 7, 2008
Crestview Church of Christ
Waco, Texas



VALENTINE CRAFT NIGHT

Monday, February 4th, 6:30 pm

Round Rock 4-H Club is holding a Valentine Craft night at the CEO Only \$2.00 per person. For more information call Dianne Durand at 255-7388 or email her at: ddurandtx@hotmail.com

2008 CONSUMER BUYING CONTEST

If you are interested in Consumer Buying Project, please e-mail Janice Knue @ j_knue@yahoo.com



OTHER NOTEWORTHY NEWS

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

The next Williamson County 4-H Council meeting will be on **March 4, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.** at the County Extension Office.

David Wright would like to see as many youth in attendance as possible. **PLEASE ATTEND!**

MAJOR SHOW INFORMATION

Major Show Broilers for the Star of Texas and Houston Livestock Show will be in our office on February 5, 2008.

Call **David Groschke at 943-3300** to arrange your broiler pick up at the County Extension Office.

ADULT LEADERS MEETING

The Adult Leaders Association will meet on **Thursday, March 13, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.** at the County Extension Office.

*ATTENTION LIVESTOCK EXHIBITORS *

If you are traveling to any of the major shows please go by or call your school's Attendance Clerk and check with them to make sure they received a **School Excuse letter** from my office.

Also communicate with the Attendance Clerk which days your child will be absent. Thank you, David Groschke.





SPECIAL OFFER FOR TEXAS 4-H FAMILIES & FRIENDS OF TEXAS 4-H FAMILIES FROM LA QUINTA INNS & SUITES!

The Texas Youth Development Foundation is now part of an "Alliance" program with the widely recognized La Quinta Inn chain, which boasts more than 500 locations.

La Quinta is offering a 15% discount off standard rates for all Texas 4-H families and friends of Texas 4-H families when they book hotel reservations through this web page: <http://www.texas4hfoundation.org>.

In addition to the 15% discount, La Quinta will donate 9% of the revenue earned through this alliance to the Texas 4-H Foundation for its support of Texas 4-H and youth development efforts.

Make a La Quinta reservation part of your personal travel plans and know that you are investing in the future of Texas 4-H youth!

If you prefer making reservations at individual La Quinta Hotels via telephone, just call this toll free number: (1-800-531-5900), and ask for the Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation Rate and state "TX4H YOUTH" as your booking code to receive your 4-H Alliance discount.



4-H CONNECT INSTRUCTIONS



In 2005, the Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program introduced the 4-H CONNECT on-line registration program to address the concerns of cash management and to modernize the capabilities of 4-H in providing technology to our clientele. 4-H CONNECT was uniquely designed to allow 4-H members and adults to register on-line while maintaining contact with the county, district and state offices through the certification process. By the integration of such a process, the county, district, and state office was not removed from the registration process, but instead, provided the time saving process of not having to enter registration information, just reviewing and approving the registration on-line.

WHAT ARE NEW FEATURES OF THE 4-H CONNECT PROGRAM THAT YOU NEED TO COMMUNICATE WITH CLIENTELE

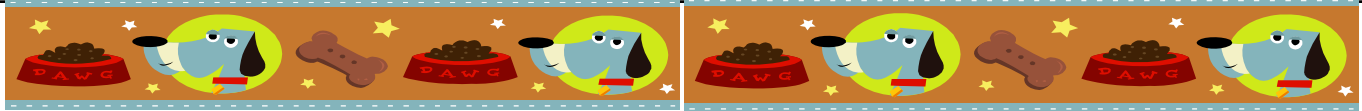
- ♣ 4-H CONNECT and the Texas Youth Development Program will no longer accept personal checks for events on 4-H CONNECT. We will be accepting e-checks, credit cards (Master Card & Visa), and County/Club 4-H Checks.
- ♣ A county office MUST accept the 4-H member/adult enrollment prior to them being allowed to register for an event. This ensures the county office/staff that anyone registering for an event is a 4-H member in their county.
- ♣ ALL 4-H members and adults have to establish a new FAMILY AND MEMBER PROFILES in the new 4-H CONNECT system.
- ♣ Stress to families THEY need to manage and set-up their profiles.

ESTABLISHING A FAMILY PROFILE

1. Go to the 4-H CONNECT website and select the button called "I need to setup a profile."
2. Complete basic information (e-mail, last name, and password), click the "Create Login" button.

WEBSITE: <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu>





The **Happy Tails 4-H Dog Club** is excited to announce a **fundraising event** for the **Williamson County Regional Animal Shelter** to be held **April 19, 2008** at the shelter in Georgetown.

We are inviting other interested 4-H clubs to participate in this event.

The shelter would like to have **several booths** promoting responsible pet ownership by including microchipping, low cost rabies vaccines, and other animal information in a **carnival type event**.

There will also be a **concession stand** with a **bake sale** and a **garage sale**. We are also hoping to have face painting, a moon walk and other fun family activities. This is an excellent opportunity to help our communities by helping the shelter. **For more information please email: Kathy Wheatley at mamaprairiepoint@netzero.net or call Juliette Snyder at 512-577-8631.**



2008 TEXAS 4-H SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The TEXAS FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP information is out and available on the Texas 4-H Website.

To access information, go to <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/youth/scholarship.html>

On this Website you will find more information on the timeline of due dates, basic requirements, the application forms and instructions, and more.

Scholarships **MUST BE RECEIVED** to the County Extension Office **by February 7, 2008** in order to be forwarded on for state judging.

For those who are eligible, please review the Volunteer Leader's Association of Texas Collegiate, and the Texas 4-H Friends and Alumni Association Collegiate Scholarship. More than 150 scholarships will be awarded ranging from \$500 to \$15,000.

The EXTENSION EDUCATION ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP: Record books must be in the County Extension Office for judging on February 13, 2008—County winner to district director. Record books are judged and winners announced at the Spring TEEA board meeting. Early June presentation of scholarships at State 4-H Roundup.

Deadline is: February 13, 2008.

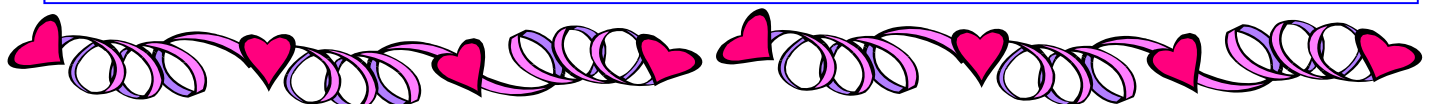
ADULT LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP FORMS: The Adult Leader Scholarship forms are available at the County Extension Office or you can download them from our webpage at <http://williamson-tx.tamu.edu>.

The **deadline is March 19, 2008.**

DISTRICT 8 TAE4-HA is pleased to announce that we will award three scholarships, each in the amount of \$250, to deserving District 8, 4-H youth. The scholarship is due to the Milam County Extension Office by **Thursday, May 1, 2008.**

TEXAS 4-H COLLEGIATE SCHOLARSHIP—Deadline: February 26, 2008

TEXAS 4-H COURAGEOUS HEART SCHOLARSHIP—Deadline is February 26, 2008.





4-H INSPIRES NEW ICE CREAM FROM BLUE BELL!

Join us in celebrating the 100th Anniversary of 4-H!

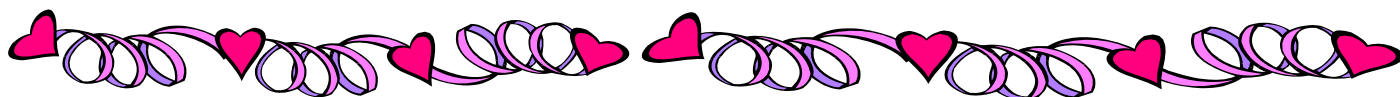
In honor of the Texas 4-H organization's 100th birthday, Blue Bell Creameries is introducing *Centennial Cupcake Ice Cream*. To "sweeten the deal", the Little Creamery is donating a portion of the sales to promote 4-H educational programs.



Centennial Cupcake Ice Cream will be sold in Texas and across the company's 17-state distribution area. "It has all of the ingredients for a celebration, a delicious cake batter ice cream with pieces of yellow cake, a chocolate icing swirl and four-leaf clovers sprinkles which give it that extra touch."

Centennial Cupcake Ice Cream will be available in stores by mid-February.

A portion of the sales of Centennial Cupcake will be used to promote 4-H Educational Programs. 



WILLIAMSON COUNTY 4-H EXCHANGE GROUP "Annual Spring Plant Sale"

Assorted Colors of HANGING BASKETS OF GERANIMUS & VERBENAS

POTTED BEGONIAS & KALANCHEOS From Glass Nursery in Cameron

Priced only at: \$15.00 per Geranium or Verbena
\$10.00 per Begonia or Kalanchoe

Contact any 4-H Member or call the CEO at (512) 943-3300.

ORDERS ARE DUE BY March 3, 2008 & PICK-UP DATE IS MARCH 16, 2008

"BEAUTIFUL FLOWERING PLANTS MAKE GREAT EASTER GIFTS!"

Annual Spring Sale Order Form
Make checks payable to: Williamson County 4-H Exchange Group
Payment Must Accompany Order

Name: _____

Quantities:

Address: _____

Hanging :

Geraniums _____

Verbenas: _____

Phone: _____

Potted:

Begonias: _____

Kalancheos: _____

Payment Type: Check Cash Money Order

TOTAL: _____

PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE 4-H EXCHANGE PROGRAM!





IRS REQUIREMENTS FOR 4-H CLUBS TO FILE FEDERAL INCOME TAX FORM FOR 2007

This new mandatory IRS requirement is a result of passed federal legislation known as the **PENSION PROTECTION ACT (PPA) of 2006**.

The process is suppose to be relatively simple. The IRS is setting up a website where clubs can file their annual tax form called a **990-N** (electronic postcard). **ALL 4-H Clubs must file their tax form by May 15, 2008**. Texas 4-H will require proof that this filing has occurred as an element of Chartering 4-H clubs.

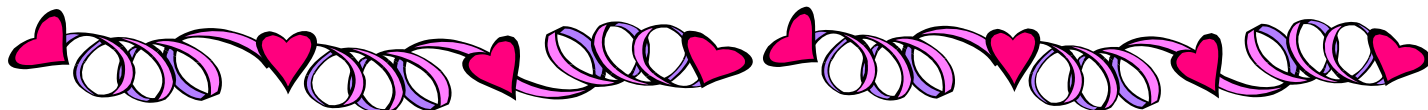
The IRS have given a projected date of mid-February for the site to be functional.

The electronic postcard is for 4-H clubs who had 0 to \$24,999 in income. Any group generating \$25,000 or more must file a Form 990, paper copy.

The information that 4-H clubs will need to file their tax form via the electronic postcard includes:

- ☞ Organization's legal name
- ☞ Any other names your organization uses
- ☞ Organization's mailing address
- ☞ Organization's website address (if applicable)
- ☞ Organization's employer identification number (EIN)
- ☞ Name and address of a principal officer of your organization
- ☞ Organization's annual tax period (January 1–December 31 for Texas 4-H)
- ☞ A statement that your organization's annual gross receipts are still normally \$25,000 or less, and
- ☞ If applicable, a statement that your organization is terminating (going out of business).

In addition to it being an **IRS mandatory requirement** and an element of chartering for Texas 4-H, it is to the clubs **EXTREME** advantage to have this opportunity. All clubs that file their tax form and are chartered will receive a letter from the IRS showing them to be federally tax exempt. This is advantageous as donors can give money or property to the club and then potentially claim it as a tax deduction.



PRSR STD
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
USDA
Permit No. 25



3151 S. E. Inner Loop, Suite A
Georgetown, TX 78626
512-943-3300
512-943-3301 (fax)



WE'RE ON THE WEB:
WILLIAMSON-TX.TAMU.EDU
CLICK 4-H & YOUTH ON LEFT SIDE OF PAGE



**Williamson County
4-H Express**