

**2014-2015**

**CROSBY COUNTY**

**4-H**



**FAMILY GUIDE**

Crosby County Extension Office

201 W Aspen, STE 011

Crosbyton, Texas 79322

Located in the Basement of the Crosby County Courthouse

806-675-2347

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-5pm

[Crosby.agrilife.org](http://Crosby.agrilife.org)

[Crosby-TX@tamu.edu](mailto:Crosby-TX@tamu.edu)

# Welcome to Crosby County 4-H!

Dear 4-H Families,

Thank you for becoming part of the Crosby County 4-H! 4-H is the youth development organization of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Our purpose is to provide young people the opportunity to develop life skills through hands on learning experiences. Young people are our future; we want to make every effort to extend the wealth of knowledge and learning experiences available through our Land Grant University System. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is part of the Texas A&M University System with cooperation of local Commissioner Courts.

The 4-H Program has many opportunities to offer to all youth, those who live in rural areas and in our small towns. 4-H members can participate in many activities ranging from showing livestock to performing arts. There are many projects and activities available. We want to help our members understand the process and take full advantage of all opportunities available. We hope this will be a quick reference guide for you to use and make your 4-H experience easy and fun!

**4-H is a family affair!** 4-H members select various projects with the help of their parents, other club leaders and Extension Agents. Parents, project leaders and agents can advise, counsel and assist members in becoming involved in and carrying out a project. **Parents must take an active role in the 4-H career of their child.**

Please read through this family guide to answer some questions you may have about the 4-H program in Crosby County. You may also refer to the 4-H newsletter or our Facebook Group for more information. Feel free to call our office at anytime.

**We look forward to your participation and success in the Crosby County 4-H Program!!**



# Crosby County Extension Staff



**CEA-FCS  
4-H Coordinator**

**Caitlin Jackson  
CEA-AG/NR  
County Coordinator  
cojackson@ag.tamu.edu  
806-407-2400**

**Sue Starkey  
Office Manager  
Crosby-TX@ag.tamu.edu  
806-675-2347  
Fax: 675-2348**



<b>Project Group</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>Contact Info</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Horse Club	Angela Arthur	781-6189	Horse Quiz Bowl, Horse Judging, Trail Rides, Playdays <b>(no horses provided)</b>
Archery	Shannon Smith Jennifer Zarate	632-9500 Lorenzo ISD	All equipment provided
Rifle	James Taylor	577-8968	Rifles provided. 4-Her must provide .22 ammo, ear/eye protection
Rabbit	Angela Arthur	781-6189	Shomanship, health, purchasing
Meat Science	Caitlin Jackson	407-2400	Meat Judging, TTU Meat Lab Visits
Livestock	<b>Project Leader Needed</b>		Livestock Judging
Food & Nutrition			Food Show, Food Challenge, Recipe Rally, Cooking, Nutrition Education
Clothing & Textiles			Fashion Show, Fashion Story Board, Sewing
Clover Kids	Caitlin Jackson <b>(Project Leader Needed)</b>	407-2400	Science, Fun, Leadership
Swine	Caitlin Jackson	407-2400	Swine Skill-a-Thon, Quiz Bowl
Other Contests	Caitlin Jackson	407-2400	Photography, Public Speaking, Consumer Decision Making
Geocaching	<b>Project Leader Needed</b>		Geocaching, Wilderness Safety, First Aid & CPR
Performing Arts	<b>Project Leader Needed!</b>		Poetry, Acting, Routines, Skits, Instruments, Talent, Singing
Shotgun	<b>Info Coming Soon</b>		Trap & Skeet, Dove Hunt. No firearm provided. Must provide clays
Pistol	Caitlin Jackson	407.2400	Equipment provided. Air, .22, Centerfire
Health/Safety/Fitness	<b>Project Leader Needed!</b>		5K Walk/Run, Fitness activities, etc
Vet Science	Caitlin Jackson		Curriculum to certify members as "Vet Techs", Skill-a-Thon
Horticulture	<b>Project Leader Needed!</b>		Home gardening, organics, weeds mgmt
Robotics/Computer Technology	<b>Project Leader Needed!</b>		Grants are available for equipment

# What is 4-H?

## 4-H is...

Learning by doing, and is available to all boys and girls, 8 years old and in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade through 18 years old as of August 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. The annual fee to be a member is \$20 per year if registered before November 1, after the fee increases to \$25. Depending on financial status of the county club, \$10 of that fee may be paid by the club.

We also have a Clover Kid project for those under 8. There is no cost to be a Clover Kid.

Project Leaders bring together youth that share common interests, this is a Project Group. Next members choose the projects they would like to join. We recommend being actively involved in 3-5 projects. There is no minimum or maximum. Each project group will meet as needed, but at least 5 times per year. The group will also offer leadership experiences and at least 2 opportunities for community service.

**4-H Slogan:** Learn by doing

**4-H Motto:** To make the best better

## 4-H Pledge:

I pledge:

My HEAD to clearer thinking

My HEART to greater loyalty

My HANDS to larger service

My HEALTH to better living

For my CLUB, my COMMUNITY, my COUNTY and my WORLD

**4-H Emblem:** The emblem is a four leaf clover with the letter "H" on each leaf. The four H's stand for Head, Heart, Hands and Health. Leaves on the clover are green and the H's are white. White symbolizes purity and green is nature's most common color. Since the green symbolizes growth in nature, it is symbolic of youth and life.



# 4-H Membership

## Program Year

The 4-H Program year begins on September 1 and concludes on August 31 of the following year.

## Membership Policies

Any person, regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, religion, disability or national origin, may enroll as a 4-H member. Texas 4-H activities and events are open to enrolled members between the ages of 9 (or 8 AND in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade) and 18 on August 31. *(All members are eligible for competition at the county and district level)*

Events that require registration, certification or entry during the summer prior to the beginning of the 4-H year – County Extension agents may sign entry forms for events that will occur during the 4-H year for youths who will become eligible for and enroll in 4-H on September 1, but these youths may not participate in 4-H competitive events and activities until September 1.

## 4-H Connect- [texas.4honline.com](http://texas.4honline.com)

All members and adult leaders must be registered on 4-H Connect. This is the online system used by the Texas 4-H to track enrollment and contest entries. The Crosby County Extension Office will help you set up your profile. Please remember the email address and password you set up. If you do not have internet or a computer at home, we will be more than happy to assist you in the office. Most camps and all district and state contests will be entered on 4-H Connect. **Membership must be manually renewed each year.**

The Crosby County 4-H Currently pays the fee for all district and state contests. Any camps or conferences must be paid for by the member. When entering a district or state contest or re-enrolling select the “club check” payment method. The County Office will bill you for anything you owe to the club. If balances are not paid in a timely matter, or arrangements are not made, a \$20 per month fee will be applied. No stock show checks or other awards will be given until payment arrangements are made.



## **What is a Project**

**The project is the heart of the 4-H Program.** A wide variety of projects are available for members. Each project varies by the members involved and their project leaders.

Through well chosen projects, members learn to use their resources, to assume responsibility and to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for everyday living. A project may last 6 weeks or run all year. "Learning by doing" is the most important aspect of a project. Making, growing, caring for, observing and participating- all of these active learning processes are involved in 4-H Projects.

Projects are fun! They help develop skills, offer an opportunity to assume responsibility, to make a profit, explore careers, make friends, do community service and serve in leadership positions.

### **The Project Group**

Project groups are led by Project Leaders. All project groups are open to all members. A project group may hold meetings in Ralls, but all members countywide are able to attend any project meeting they would like! Even if you did not start attending meetings when they began, any member is welcome to attend any meeting. Regardless of time or prior participation.

Parents are also a large part of a project group! They should be engaged and involved in the projects their child participates in. If possible, parents should attend meetings with their kids. We also encourage parents to become project leaders. But, please do not let logistics get in the way of a member participating in a Project Group! Please call someone, we will find rides!!

Project Groups may elect officers, task forces, or other positions. The project leader and members will make those decisions based upon their needs.

Project Groups will meet at minimum 5 times and will offer 2 community service projects. Some groups may offer equipment and some will not.





# Countywide Events & Leadership

## Events

**The Crosby County 4-H is one single club with multiple project groups.**

Throughout the year the entire club will hold countywide events.

Examples are: Enrollment Pool Party, Rodeo Parade Float, Christmas Parade Float, Annual Banquet, Dances, County Stock Show Concession Stand, Fireworks Stand, Etc.

## Leadership

The countywide leadership team will be made up of 4-H Ambassadors.

There will be **3 Junior Ambassadors**, which will be 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade members. There will be **5 Senior Ambassadors**, who will be 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade members. Ambassadors will serve as the primary leadership figure for the county 4-H Club. The Ambassador team will be members who make 4-H their priority. They will plan countywide events and fundraisers.

Those appointed to County Ambassadors will be the supreme leaders of the club.

## Crosby County 4-H Ambassadors

The Ambassador Team will consist of 8 members, 3 Junior Ambassadors and 5 Senior. Juniors will consist of members who are 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Seniors will consist of members who are in 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade.

### Requirements to Run for an Ambassador Position

1. Must meet age requirements
2. Complete the ambassador application & test
3. Present a speech
  - a. Junior- 2 Minute
  - b. Senior- 5 Minute
4. Be an active member of 3 Project Groups

### Requirements to remain an Ambassador

1. Complete a recordbook
2. Present to one Commissioners Court or School Board Meeting
3. Attend 80% of Ambassador meetings
4. Participate in 3 district events *besides recordbooks*
5. Have no outstanding balance owed to the 4-H Club
6. Work the County Stock Show Concession Stand & All countywide fundraisers





## Other Important Info

### 4-H Age

4-Hers are broken into 3 age categories: Junior, Intermediate and Senior.

Juniors: 8-10 years old as of September 1.

Intermediates: 11-13 years old as of September 1

Seniors: 14-18 year old as of September 1

### Record Keeping

4-Hers are STRONGLY ENCOURAGED to complete a Recordbook. The recordbook is entered into a competition, makes the member eligible for county awards, but most importantly, will be a tool to use when applying for the Texas 4-H Scholarship. Recordbook trainings and workdays will be held throughout the year. Keep a notebook of all the things you do as a 4-H member. You can always contact the Extension Agents or Project Leaders for help.

Project forms may also be utilized for those who are not ready to complete a recordbook. If a member completes a project form, they will be recognized at the banquet and receive a project pin, but they WILL NOT be eligible for county awards.

### Scholarship Opportunities

4-H is the best organization within the county in terms of scholarship opportunities. The maximum scholarship amount given by the Texas 4-H is currently \$18,000. In 2012 the amount was only \$16,000, and in 2011, \$12,000. The amounts of these scholarships are increasing yearly. Crosby County has had great success winning 3 scholarships in the past 2 years.

At the County Level, a scholarship of \$1,000 is given to our Gold Star recipients. This is the highest honor earned in 4-H. We also have opportunities through other agricultural organizations, which we will assist you with.

### What is Roundup???

Roundup is a fancy way of saying "contest". The State Roundup is only for intermediate and senior 4-Hers, County & District Roundup is for all ages.



## **Contests Crosby County is Currently Participating in?**

- Meat Judging
- Horse Judging
- Horse Quiz Bowl
- Livestock Judging
- Swine Skill-a-Thon
- Swine Quiz Bowl
- Vet Science Skill-a-Thon
- Archery
- Rifle
- Photography
- Public Speaking
- Consumer Decision Making
- Horse Show
- Food Show
- Food Challenge
- Fashion Show
- Fashion Story Board
- Recordbooks
- Leader Lab Camp
- Power Camp
- Educational Presentations- Several Categories to Choose From

## **Other Contests We NEED to Take Advantage of**

- Share the Fun
  - Poetry/Prose
  - Choreographed Routines
  - Musical/Instrumental
  - Celebrate 4-H Skit
  - Solo/Band Performance
  - Vocal
- Dairy Cattle Judging
- Dairy Foods Judging
- Healthy Life Styles
- Nutrition Quiz Bowl
- Soil Judging
- Grass ID
- Entomology
- Trap & Skeet



**We hope that you will take advantage of the many opportunities available to the 4-H members of Crosby County.**

**We also hope that parents will volunteer to be Adult Leaders and Project Leaders. This is an amazing organization, members can use their knowledge and skills from other areas and see great success in 4-H. Our program is here to compliment the other organizations and programs available to our youth.**

**Our door is always open to you. Please do not hesitate to call/email/text or Facebook us with questions or concerns!**



**Search "Crosby County 4-H" Request to Join our Group**

**TEXAS A&M**  
**AGRI LIFE**  
**EXTENSION**