

RELEVANCE

The 4-H program in Hopkins County is multi-faceted. 4-H members and leaders participate in a variety of educational events, projects and activities. Youth gain leadership skills as they participate in youth based programs. The goal of this plan is to promote youth development in to responsible, contributing members of the society. Integration of members taking active role in leadership and public speaking events will be promoted. The enrollment goal for 2025 was 200 youth.

RESPONSE

County Staff implemented the 4- H and Youth Development Program in Hopkins County including communication with Club Managers, County 4-H Council, volunteer leaders, record book training, special events. FCH and Ag related 4-H Projects will be covered in discipline specific plans.

The Hopkins County Youth Program Area Committee provided leadership for the planning and implementation of this plan. Promotion of projects and events was conducted using technology based platforms (youtube, facebook, newspaper, radio, 4-H gazette) by program participants.

The following activities were conducted during 2025:

VALUE

Character and 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.

371

Youth enrolled in 4-H

- Quarterly 4-H Council Meetings.
- Bimonthly 4-H Gazette.
- School ISDs Networking with school board participation.
- District Work Days.
- National 4-H Week.
- 4-H Project Show.
- 4-H Recognition Banquet.
- Hopkins County Christmas Party.
- 4 Program Area Committee Meetings.
- Cumby Education Initiative Meetings.
- Rural Student Services Initiative meetings.
- 4-H Club Chartering.
- Multi-County Camp planning sessions.
- Hopkins County 4-H Round-Up.
- 4-H Record Book training.
- United Way Support preparation.
- TSC clover campaigns.

Results

Programs and activities were evaluated based on members participation and direct feedback. Since many activities were planned and Implemented by Council members, their opinion during the planning process was Included. Two clubs were chartered and populated during 2024-2025. All planned activities were well attended (more than 50% expected attendance).



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RELEVANCE

4-H Agriculture and Natural Resources projects are an important component of the county 4-H program in Texas. Currently, sixty three percent of Texas 4-H members are enrolled in a livestock project. These projects provide youth with subject matter education, as well as valuable learning experiences, character education and leadership skills critical for youth.

RESPONSE

Adult volunteer engagement is critical to administer the program and expand the outreach. This plan utilized a 4-H Livestock Project Coalition to provide direction and support for the programs and events conducted. The following activities were implemented during 2025:

- Livestock Clinics (beef, poultry, swine, goat/lamb) (October - January).
- 12 shooting sports sessions (6 participants) (Monthly).
- Ag in the classroom (691 attendees).
- Livestock County Show (Feb, 2025).
- Dairy Livestock Show (June, 2025).
- Participation in all major livestock shows.
- Validation of steers, heifers, goats, lambs, swine and broilers.
- 62 home project visits.
- 20 Press release related to Livestock Youth Projects.

VALUE

Character and Leadership Development

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63%

4-H members participate yearly in livestock projects



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RELEVANCE

As today's youth are further removed from farming, many do not understand the importance of agriculture and how it impacts their daily lives. The 2024 Hopkins County Texas Community Forum identified agricultural awareness as an educational priority for the upcoming years. This Science of Agriculture (Ag Literacy/Awareness) program targets elementary students (grades 4th) and teachers in Hopkins, Rains, Franklin and Delta Counties and provides the following educational components: Educational support materials for Science of Agriculture including Ag Day/Ag Fair field trip, pre- and post-tests, teacher evaluation, recognition certificates and information about 4-H opportunities for the participants and parents.

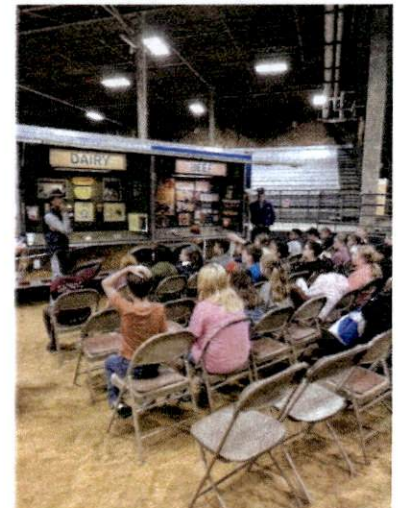


RESPONSE

A model which has worked well to address this issue is classroom instruction of elementary school students, followed up with an Ag Day/Ag Fair where youth can rotate through educational sessions to learn more about specific commodities in their county, as well as topics such food safety, community health, and/or the food supply continuum. The goal of the Science of Agriculture plan is that elementary students grade 4th and their teachers will show an increased awareness and knowledge about agriculture and natural resources and how agriculture affects their daily lives. This plan is to reach 691 youth through Ag Awareness Days (2). The topics presented during the field days were as follows:

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy
- Poultry
- Use of water in agriculture
- Nutrition in people
- Horses
- Goats
- Honey bees
- Cereal Crops
- Opportunities in 4-H

A pre and post evaluation (path to the plate survey) was conducted in a statistically significant subset sample (SSISD) of 4th grade attendees.



RESULTS

From the evaluated attendees:

- 94.3% (26/35) have a better understanding of the path to the plate.
- 74.3% (26/35) have a better understanding of a healthy diet.
- 74.3% (26/35) have a better understanding of the nutritional value of foods.
- 62.9% (26/35) have a better understanding of the way farmers produce foods.
- 62.9% (26/35) have a better understand the path of food production.
- 60.0% (21/35) have a better understanding of the value of agriculture every day.

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