

# TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

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## *Clover Connection*

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Well, the New Year is off to a fast start. Here we are, almost the end of January. The Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo has kicked off which means San Antonio, Houston and Rodeo Austin are soon to follow. We wish our Henderson County 4-Her's who are exhibiting at these shows the very best of luck!

My "showing" season in Nebraska was a much different experience than the stock show season here in Texas. First of all, our county fair was in the summer time and "major" show opportunities for me included the Nebraska State Fair and a multi-state 4-H show called Ak-Sar-Ben. That spells "Nebraska" backwards. I have no idea why. My family also raised sheep (a LOT of them) and we followed a small circuit of regional breed shows.

One thing that I think is true of showing in general no matter what state you are in, is the family and friends you adopt along the way. Another family that frequented the same breed shows as we did had a son about my age (David). We both ended up attending college at the University of Nebraska and lived in the same dorm.

I even found out that an old recliner I had tossed in the dumpster had been retrieved by Dave. Once he found out it had been mine, he offered to return it in its fixed up state. I told him I appreciated the offer, but "finder's keepers".

After college, I set off on a career path in Extension and Dave went off for more school to become a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. Fast forward 14 years, I'm still working in Extension and Dave has a successful veterinary practice with his father (who is also a DVM) in Nebraska.

What's the point of all my rambling? The takeaway for me is that you truly can make life-long friends through 4-H and showing that you might not have otherwise. I'm already thinking of about 5 other people that came into my life through my livestock experiences that I still have relationships with today.

In addition to my “blood” family I am beyond blessed to say that I have livestock/show family too. We might not see one another very often, or even talk on the phone, but if I ever needed something that one of them could help with I know they would in the drop of a hat.

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