

TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION



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Clover Connection

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There's a line from a song that Mary Chapin Carpenter sings that I can't seem to get out of my head "Sometimes you're the windshield, sometimes you're the bug". Today, I am feeling like the bug. I have lots to be thankful for, but sometimes all of life's projects and tasks (and work) can be overwhelming. Overall, I'm glad that for the most part, my adult work tasks are less stressful than some of those from my youth.

In today's world, my "job" as a wiry, somewhat speedy 7 year old might be considered child endangerment, but it was the 80's and things rolled a little differently back then. You see, I was a decoy. Feeding 3 separate yards of a total of 280 sheep by hand involved a well-executed plan of maneuvering several 5 gallon buckets full of corn. This wasn't always an easy task, especially when one of the yards included "Willie", a massive 300 lb. Suffolk ram (with an attitude).

Cue Kate. I would scramble up and over the metal gate with my Folgers can full of golden corn kernels and then high tail it to the end of the long feed bunk to deposit the bounty. This always got the sheep (including Willie) to the far end of the yard so my mom and brother could distribute the rest of the feed and not be hassled (or potentially knocked over).

So, you're probably wondering what does this all have to do with 4-H & Youth Development? Well, the 4-H motto is to "make the best better" and we always encourage our members to give everything they do their very best effort. Being a decoy might not have been the most glamorous job in the world, but it was a very important one that I always tried to give my best because my mom and brother's backs depended on it, literally!

In other Henderson County 4-H news, we have a great group of youth participating in the Fort Worth Stock Show this year & we also had several members participate in the Ag ID contest sponsored by the East Texas State Fair in Tyler. Hopefully we'll have all the results by press time next week.

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