

TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

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Clover Connection

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What? You mean you didn't work with your show lambs wearing pink plastic hoop earrings, a pink striped tank top, and stirrup pants with LA Gear high top sneakers? Going through a stack of old photos; I have to say my mom had impeccable timing with her old 35 millimeter. While there were always a couple of pictures of the floor or ceiling (sorry, mom) she always managed to get a few gems.

Yes, I grew up in the 1980's (and 90's). I ate a lot more bologna than hamburger at some points even though we had a small herd of cattle. The farm crisis hit hard for some in my neck of the woods, including my family. My mom always kept us fed and my brother and I didn't really mind the year we shared a simple board game for Christmas. Going through some hard times helps make you appreciate the good ones even more.

Overall, things have been pretty great in the Henderson County 4-H program this year. We had 298 registered members belonging to 14 different clubs. We even had 2 special interest clubs; one about beekeeping and another on robotics. We also had 3,411 youth participate in some sort of curriculum enrichment event/activities that were provided through our office.

Approximately 45 of our members participated in major livestock shows (State Fair of Texas, East Texas State Fair, Waco, Fort Worth, San Antonio, Houston & Rodeo Austin) and contests held in conjunction with the shows. Whew, it really was a busy year!

Along with participating in hands-on projects, another component of the 4-H program is giving back to your community. We had 11 different community service opportunities over the year and had an average of 25 members help with each one. These were in addition to things that individual clubs may have chosen to do. Our final county wide 4-H service event scheduled for the year is helping sort toys for the local "Toys for Tots" drive.

As the year begins to come to a close, I hope everyone has a chance to enjoy the holidays (and eat some goodies). Make time for friends and family. Take a moment to count our blessings and reach out to others who may be having a hard time.

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