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*Clover Connection*

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Where did the month of February go? I seem to have misplaced it on my calendar. March is here and things are going full steam ahead in preparation for the Henderson County Livestock (and project) Show. Sometimes people automatically think “animals” when they hear 4-H. While it’s true that the foundations of the 4-H program were built on animals and agriculture the program has branched out to offer projects in all different areas that youth can participate in no matter where they live.

I think it is natural for any program that has been in existence for 114 years to evolve and adapt to changes and trends. One thing that hasn’t changed over the years, is one of the basic purposes of the program – personal achievement and growth.

All 4-H educational experiences are built around life skills that center on positive self-esteem, communication and decision making. Citizenship and leadership skills, learning how to learn, and the ability to cope with change are also a key component to 4-H. Life skills are built into 4-H projects, activities, and events that help participants become contributing, productive, self-directed members of society ([www.4-h.org/about](http://www.4-h.org/about)).

Another thing that many people don’t know is that Texas 4-H specifically, awards approximately 225 scholarships for students statewide. All youth need to apply is: 4-H experience, financial need and their academic record. Amounts of the scholarships awarded range from \$1,000 to \$20,000. The important part of these scholarships is keeping up a yearly 4-H record book that tracks projects, community service and leadership.

If you are in 4-H but have never done a record book, it’s not too late to start! We have forms available through our office to help you get started. On the flip side, if you aren’t involved in 4-H, but would like to be, we accept enrollments year round. Call or email for more information!

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