

TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

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Clover Connection

By: Kate Pittack, Extension 4-H Agent

The annual Henderson County Livestock and Project Show is just around the corner! I know lots of volunteers are taking care of final details and the youth participating are making last minute preparations to their exhibits.

This made me start thinking about my time as a youth preparing for county fair. I did a little bit of everything. I had animal projects as well as clothing and textiles, foods and nutrition and creative arts. Balancing all of the check-ins and preparations for this variety of entries could sometimes be a challenge.

Standing on a step stool and scooping out a watermelon to make a fruit salad centerpiece for the favorite foods revue contest and then setting up the clipping stand in the garage to slick my market lambs was all in a day's work for pre-fair prep!

Along with getting to showcase all of the hard work (and sometimes blood, sweat and tears) that went into my projects, one of the best things about the fair was the camaraderie between fellow 4-H club members and other friends that you only got to see during the week of fair. From just hanging out in the barns to sneaking off over by the grandstand to hear "new" country music artist Trisha Yearwood's concert, there was always something to do. (I think my local fair board got extremely lucky when they had booked her earlier that year before she had her first hit).

Way back when I was a member, there was even a traditional end of fair water fight. You see, our fairs in Nebraska were held during the summer months and with ours scheduled in August it could sometimes get pretty hot. Now, rest assured, this county agent just watched as this took place and didn't actually participate in the sometimes frowned upon activity.

Lots of memories are made at livestock shows and fairs. I wish all of the youth and families who are getting prepared that during all the hustle and bustle they will have some time to visit with friends and neighbors and make some memories of their own.

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