

TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

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Clover Connection

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What's the most impractical thing you've ever done for the sake of a project or event? For me, it was wearing a wool blazer and pleated wool skirt in a 110 degree Quonset at my county fair while leading my sparkly white Dorset ewe aptly named "Sugar" around the show ring. Part of our "Make it with Wool" contest included modeling our outfit along with a wooly friend. While parading around in a wool outfit during the summer wasn't exactly fun, what was cool was the knowledge I gained about the fiber industry at a young age.

Along with my sheep, another one of my main 4-H projects was clothing and textiles. I spent many years doing actual clothing construction. Between working on projects at home and attending workshops hosted by my local Extension office, I learned to sew a seam and stitch on a button pretty handily. Of course there was that one summer when it seemed like everyone (except me) got to attend the workshop to make some sweet MC Hammer pants. While I didn't realize it at the time, my mom's refusing to sign me up probably turned out all for the best.

As I mentioned earlier, my 4-H projects introduced me to the world of fiber/clothing. Looking back I'd have to say it really has influenced me in my decisions when picking out and purchasing clothing today. As I got older, my interest in clothing construction waned, but I was still involved in other fiber related projects such as "Shopping Smart" which was a smart buying type of experience and also quilting. I found that I enjoyed and got much more satisfaction from my completed quilting projects than actual items of clothing.

I may not have sheared my sheep and then used the wool to spin my own yarn to make my own fabric, but I wouldn't have the knowledge I have today about fiber and clothing without participating in the sheep and textile projects in 4-H. If you're interested in learning more about

what the 4-H program has to offer you can always contact me. Also, be sure to mark your calendars for Thursday, August 11th for our annual 4-H Open House/Kick-off event we'll be holding at The Cain Center from 6-8 p.m. 4-H clubs from here in Henderson County will have booths set up with information and hands-on activities.

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