

# TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

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## *Clover Connection*

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Extension 4-H Agent

4-H is a program that is designed to help youth become competent and caring adults. We strive to “make the best better” through having adult volunteers serve as role models and participate in projects, activities and events in partnership with youth. These partnerships involve youth and adults equally sharing in the decision making process.

This dynamic is very different than many relationships in which adults take the leadership roles and youth are assigned inferior roles, or programs where youth make all the decisions while the adults sit back and watch. Instead, youth-adult partnerships build on the strengths of each group and the final program or activity is stronger than a program or activity devised and delivered individually by either group.

I’m proud to say we have multiple 4-H projects/programs that are thriving because of the youth-adult partnerships that are taking place right here in Henderson County! We are just beginning our new 4-H program year and recently held our Open House to provide information for new members/volunteers who are interested in joining our program. Even if you didn’t make it to that event, it’s never too late to join us! Youth and adults can join our program at any time during the year.

We’ve got several things lined up already for this fall. Come and see us at the Uncle Fletch Festival on Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>! We’ll be on the square in Athens with some hands-on natural resource related activities. We’ll also have information available on how to join 4-H.

Interested in gardening or public speaking? We have a series of meetings lined up for each of these areas. We also have county-wide workshops scheduled for the foods & nutrition project and clothing and textiles. There will also be a group of avid quilters who are going to work on projects under the direction of the Gun Barrel City Quilters Guild.

4-H is an awesome, research-based program that everyone can benefit from. I was a 10 year 4-H member growing up in Nebraska and have now spent almost 10 years of my career working with the program that helped me in so many ways. If you have more questions about getting involved as a member (or volunteer) please contact me! I can be reached at 903-675-6130 or [kate.pittack@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:kate.pittack@ag.tamu.edu).

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