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4-H — an American invention

By Veronica Hund



An American invention, the 4-H program of the Extension Service, originated near the beginning of the 20th century as a result of a vital need to improve life in rural areas.

Introduction to improved methods of farming and homemaking, 4-H taught youth to "learn-by-doing." Designed for both boys and girls, the first 4-H "projects" included home canning of tomatoes as well as raising corn and hogs.

The school and the home had a close affiliation in this early 4-H program and adults in the family often were persuaded to adopt new practices as a result of successes experienced by 4-H youth.

In 1914 the Smith-Lever Act established the Cooperative Extension Service, an organizational entity of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the land-grant college system. Created by this act and subsequent legislation to conduct educational programs of an "informal," non-resident, problem-oriented nature, the Cooperative Extension Service provided the professional staff and support needed to direct the growth of the early 4-H program.

Today's 4-H program involves youth as the primary audience and adults and teens as volunteer leaders.

No single cooperative Extension service program is more widely known or recognized than 4-H. The technique of organizing boys and girls into clubs through which Extension programs could help youth learn practical knowledge and skills in agriculture, home economics and related areas was one of the early innovations in education and it succeeded admirably.

4-H projects, strictly rural in the early days, have now been diversified to appeal to boys and girls in urban areas as well. They stimulate adults to apply new knowledge and often lead to a closer sense of partnership between parents and their children.

4-H clubs give identity to learning activities, enhance personal development through project work, establish a formal vehicle for involvement of adults and develop an esprit de corps of significance. Many clubs today join together in cooperative community projects.

In addition to clubs, 4-H uses many other means of

meeting the needs of today's youth. Learning opportunities are provided through informal groups, camps, educational television, 4-H programs in schools, family programs and special events.

Through international programs, exchange opportunities and overseas activities also have evolved and many nations have developed a youth program similar to 4-H.

If you are interested in learning more about the 4-H program, contact the County Extension Office at 732-6694.

WCJC calendar of events

The following is a schedule of events for Wharton County Junior College in Wharton for the month of July.

Thursday, July 5: First term summer courses final examinations and book buy-back at Bookstore.

WCJC Bay City Extension Center second summer term evening class registration, 5-7 p.m., at Bay City Junior High School Cafeteria.

Monday, July 9: WCJC Main Campus second summer term class registration. Administration Building, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 12: All WCJC second summer term classes begin.

Tuesday, July 10: First class meeting for Introduction to Microcomputers from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Instructor is George Kontos. There is a fee of \$38 plus books. The class will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays through August 8.

Wednesday, July 11: ACT (American College Testing) Residual Testing, J.R. Peace Building, room 102, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Administered only to students who will attend WCJC.

Thursday, July 12: Last day to register or add second summer term course.

Tuesday and Thursday, July 17 & 19: Defensive Driving class, \$18 fee from 6:10 p.m. at the Johnson Health Occupations Center. The instructor is Sue Lane Brown.

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Hospital News

Patients (July 2):
Eagle Lake: Annie Lee Dancy, Robert L. Baird, Marcelino Rodriguez, Connie Castillo, Virginia Ward, James Middleton, Manuel Marquez, Rosemary Walsh, Willie Pettis, Frances Roberts, Audra Stovall and Baby Girl, Leandra Sosa, Fileman Arellano.

East Bernard: Cornelio Lopez from Florida; Guy Woodham; from Alleyton: Roger Pilmer; from Houston: Hazel Hawkins; from Hallettsville: Martha Campbell; from Bellville: Lillian Neumann; from Cuero: Beulah Breitkreutz; from Lissie: Robby Beisel.

Abigail Melchor: from Rosenberg; **Alberta Ellison:** from Weimar; **Johanne Chandler:** from Altair; **Bill Stolle.**

Dismissals:
Eagle Lake: Luisa Hernandez, Pattie Owens, Janie Rivera, Lupe Cardenas, Baby Boy Mendoza, Ruby Linneier, Rosie Scott, Esther Sunderman, Lillie Mae Hurd, Sabino Cordova, Bennie Contreras, Mary Norris, Jaime Pena, Jr., Marilyn Hernandez, Aurora Rodriguez, Eugene Brown, Leslie Center, Calvin Gerton, Leslie

Sutton, Isabel Vecera, Rudy Rodriguez, Georgia Pippins; **El Campo:** Opal Harton; from Columbus: Henry Toliver, Jim Fleming, Arthur Kahlden, Dora Hernandez; from Austin: William Black; from Sheridan: Jeri Ann Munoz and Baby Girl; from Katy: Martin Ferro; from Garwood: Lulu Schoellmann; from East Bernard: Gladys Nawara and Baby Girl; from Orchard: Judy Heard; from Hockley: Richard Cook; from Flatonia: Stella Williams.

Columbus Community Hospital leaders discuss hospital future

Columbus Community Hospital held a Community Leaders Forum on Friday, June 29 in the hospital cafeteria at noon.

The purpose of the Hospital is searching for ways to preserve its strength by maintaining present services and by expanding on them.

Following an introduction by Henry Potter, president of the Board of Trustees, Simmons led the discussion about what services the hospital can provide to meet health care needs in Columbus and Colorado County. He also reviewed some of the

benefits of the hospital's management contract with Hermann Hospital Affiliated Systems and some of the major steps Columbus Community Hospital has taken to lower medical costs.

"This was the first time a meeting of this kind has been initiated for the hospital. Questions and suggestions from the audience were encouraged. We wanted this forum to open new lines of communication between the hospital and the community," Simmons said.

Mourning dove population down

Federal and state surveys of mourning dove populations appear to indicate that mourning doves in Texas and nationwide may be somewhat below average when hunting seasons open in September.

Texas Parks and Wildlife biologists cooperated in call-count surveys during the spring mourning dove nesting season. The results of the breeding populations, and furnished their findings to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) which compiled similar data from other dove-producing states.

The data indicate breeding populations in Texas are down approximately 2.6 percent from 1983, which was not considered a banner year for dove production.

Ron George, dove program leader for the department, said Texas' decline is fairly insignificant, but larger declines were noted by the USFWS in Kansas (down 24.9 percent), Arkansas (down 21.3 percent) and Oklahoma (down 29.9 percent). All these states contribute a portion of the doves which migrate into Texas. However, George noted that Nebraska, New Mexico and Missouri posted modest gains in the count, and Colorado biologists estimated a 13.6 percent increase.

Being hosted by the Houston-Galveston Area Council, the 13-county Upper Gulf Coast Area's Regional Alcoholism Authority, the two-day Forum will make a thoroughgoing assessment of the needs of the most populous area of Texas for drug abuse prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation services.

It is one of six such regional conferences to be held across the State this year under the auspices of the Texas Department of Community Affairs' Drug Prevention Division.

The Regional Forum will be held in Houston at the Marriott Astrodome Hotel, 2100 South Braeswood. The sessions will begin at 8:30 a.m. Registration is \$25 per person and includes lunch and Continental breakfast. Advance registration can be made by telephoning H-GAC Chemical Abuse Planner Roxanna Johnson at (713) 627-8200.

H-GAC hosting regional drug forum July 12, 13

Participants from 35 counties in east, east central and southeast Texas, including a broad-based contingent of public officials from State and local government as well as regional agencies, will be attending a Regional Drug Forum in Houston on Thursday and Friday, July 12 and 13.

Planning better for the future of drug abuse services in Texas will be the central focus of the Forum. Speakers and panelists will assess the extent of drug abuse in the area and the State. Drug-related laws passed by the Legislature and the R.R. McAllister Drug Treatment Program Act, which allows for a comprehensive system of prevention and treatment services, also will be a significant topic.

All of the discussions will cover the broad spectrum of drug abuse and misuse from the standpoint of law enforcement, drug administrative and regulatory agencies, treatment, prevention programs, the school system, businesses and the community.

The Houston-Galveston Area Council provides a year-round regional-wide services development program for local government and community agencies in dealing with chemical abuse, preventing it, and treating and rehabilitating abusers.

An association of more than 130 local governments, H-GAC cover service areas includes Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Waller, and Wharton counties.

Soil Conservation News

Gale White, a district cooperater of the Oakland area, is planning to construct a pond.

David Meyers of the Bernard area is constructing a pond. Father's place near Columbus.

Otto Kenneth Berger of the Oakland area is planning to construct a pond and also to shape eroded areas to control erosion.

Frank Cash of the Alletton area is constructing a pond and shaping eroded areas.

R. Ammons, a district cooperater of the Rock Island area, is planning to construct a pond and to repair eroded spillways on existing ponds.

Providing engineering assistance to Betty Dowell locating a pond site on her father's place near Columbus.

Engineering assistance was provided to T. C. Mensik of Weimar concerning some small drainage weeds.

Whittier locating a pond site.

Engineering assistance was provided to Harvey

Stewart of Weimar concerning a new pond.

Conservation assistance was provided to Robert Briggs of Sheridan concerning grass management, his fertilization program and weed control.

Engineering assistance was provided to McDowell of Sheridan.

Engineering assistance was provided to Ernest Krupa locating a pond site.

Engineering assistance was provided to Buddy Prause locating a pond site on his place near Ellinger.

By Leroy J. Hajdik
County Extension Agent

County Agent's Notebook

Keep grass clippings for compost

Instead of throwing away grass clippings when you mow your lawn, put them to use in a compost pile. Compost is a good source of organic matter for gardens and flower beds. Furthermore, composting is an excellent way to dispose of garden debris, leaves and similar plant material.

Make the compost pile 4 to 6 feet wide and any length, depending on material and space available.

The simplest composting methods is to alternate 4 to 6 inch layers of plant matter, such as leaves or grass, with 2 to 4 inches of good garden soil. Add manure to the soil layer if it's available, and sprinkle commercial fertilizer on each layer of plant matter to hasten decomposition. Use a cupful of fertilizer with 1-1-1 ratio per 10 square feet.

The top layer of the compost pile should be soil and the surface should form a basin to hold water. Water each layer of organic matter before adding the soil layer.

Water the pile thoroughly when completed. Add water as needed to keep the material moist but not soggy. Leaves decompose slowly if too dry.

Turn the compost every three to four months to speed decomposition. Within six months to a year, your compost will be ready to use and you'll be glad you saved those grass clippings.

Pecan situation

Pecan nutlets are now shedding from pecan trees. This drop is traditionally called the "June drop." Fallen nuts should be inspected now for the cause of drop.

Pecans are now falling due basically to four reasons. The pecan nut casebearer, phyloxera, pecan scab and physiological causes. Nuts which have fallen from the tree will be covered with olive green to black lesions. Pecan scab has not been severe enough this year to be a significant factor in current nut losses.

Nuts dropping from phyloxera are malformed with open galls on them. Even a few fallen nuts with phyloxera galls will signal the need to use a pesticide at budbreak next year.

Next to physiological causes, the pecan nut casebearer is the most significant cause of nut loss at the present time. Fallen nuts will have a small hole at the base which is blocked by dark brown frass and webbing. A significant number of these casebearer infested nuts mean that the casebearer spray was not timed properly or the application rate and method was not adequate.

Pecan webworms are a common problem these days and should be controlled by clipping out the webbed limbs or spraying the webs with malathion, diazinon, sevin, or solone.

4-H horse program

The 4-H Horse Club met on Monday night, June 18 at the 4-H Horse Club arena with the following guest results:

Pole Bending: 13 and over: Leah Shrader, first

place: Paula Baumgarten, second; Mack Wade, third; and Tara Sue Stephens, fourth; 9-12 years old: Belinda McElendon, first; Shelly McFadden, second; Donald Andrus, third; DeWitt Dopsa, fourth; Tanya Shrader, fifth; and Michael Till, sixth; 8 and under: Bo Shrader, first; Kelly Jane Stewart, second; Cory Dean Eisel, third; Kevin Till, fourth; Jessica Mangum, fifth; and Matthew Sronce, sixth; and Jason McFadden, sixth.

Stake Race: 13 and over: Leah Shrader, first; Paula Baumgarten, second; Mack Wade, third; and Tara Sue Stephens, fourth; 9-12 years old: Belinda McElendon, first; Dena Shea Dromgole, second; Shelly McFadden, third; Tanya Shrader, fourth; Shee Marie Venghaus, fifth; and Jennifer Hooper, sixth; beginners: Ashley Crane, first; Leah Shrader, second; Summer Seifert, third; Jeffery King, fourth; Sarah Fuchs, fifth; and Heath Herring, sixth; 9-12 years old: Dena Shea Dromgole, first; Shee Marie Venghaus, second; Leah Shrader, third; Jeffery King, fourth; Sarah Fuchs, fifth; and Heath Herring, sixth; 9-12 years old: Dena Shea Dromgole, first; Shee Marie Venghaus, second; Leah Shrader, third; Jeffery King, fourth; Sarah Fuchs, fifth; and Heath Herring, sixth; 9-12 years old: Dena Shea Dromgole, first; Shee Marie Venghaus, second; Leah Shrader, third; Jeffery King, fourth; Sarah Fuchs, fifth; and Heath Herring, sixth.

Don't buy brucellosis

County livestock producers who are planning to buy cattle to take advantage of improved grazing conditions should look for brucellosis-free stock.

Producers should remember a basic management practice relating to brucellosis control: make sure the cattle you buy are free of brucellosis.

Producers also should isolate any cattle they buy at any time from their herds and test them in 45 to 120 days following purchase to check for animals that might have been in the early stages of brucellosis infection.

Consider buying cattle from a certified brucellosis-free herd. There are now more than 1,100 such herds in Texas. The nearest Texas Animal Health Commission area office can provide information on certified brucellosis-free herds.

Because of progress throughout Texas in reducing brucellosis infection, it is particularly important to check on the brucellosis status of any cattle to be bought. This can prevent a whole herd of trouble.

B.T. - the caterpillar killer

Gardners needing an effective weapon in the way of plant surface. In comprehensive spray programs on some crops, repeat applications at regular intervals.

B.T. is a safe effective insecticide-it's a gardener's delight.

B.T. produces a toxic substance within the cells of its victim. Gut paralysis occurs and feeding stops immediately. Eventually, the bacteria breaks down the gut wall and contamination leads into the caterpillar's body cavity, bring on the critter's demise.

Caterpillars that may survive usually starve, fail to pupate, become more susceptible to other pathogens or harsh climatic factors and have trouble reproducing.

B.T. is biodegradable in the environment and is rapidly inactivated in soil below pH 5.1, by rainfall, exposure to sunlight and in some cases, the type of foliage on which it is sprayed.

B.T. is available in local nurseries as Thuricide, Dipel, Bactur, Biological Worm Control, Leptox, SOK, Novus, and school-age children. Tetanus and/or Diphtheria will be given to adults.



Work started Monday on the First National Bank's drive-in addition. Another motor lane will be added along with a walk-up area for an automatic teller that will be a part of the Pulse network. A new accounts and time deposit area will be added inside, in the reception area, and the customer service area is being expanded. Outside work should be finished by Aug. 1, with inside work done by Sept. 1.

Columbus Livestock

The market this week was mostly strong compared with the market the past week, according to George Hagan and Don McAlister. The market will be open Thursday, July 5.

If we can be of any assistance in marketing or hauling your livestock, call collect 409-732-2622 or 409-732-5841. We have top market sales at Columbus Livestock Market every Thursday.

Cattle on hand, 982; hogs, 15; sheep, 4; horses.

Packer Cows: higher dressing utility and cutter cows, 35 to 39.50 cents per pound; lower dressing utility and cutter cows, 31 to 35 cents; lightweight canner cows, 27 to 31 cents.

Packer Bulls: heavy-weight, 48 to 53 cents per pound; utility and cutter, 43 to 48 cents; lightweight canner, 38 to 43 cents.

Yearlings: good to choice, 54 to 58.50 cents per pound; standard, 50 to 54 cents; utility, 44 to 50 cents.

Steer and Yearling: Calves and Yearlings: 200-300 pounds, 84 cents to \$1.02; 300-400 pounds, 68 to 86 cents; 400-500 pounds, 60 to 72 cents; 500-600 pounds, 56 to 64 cents. Heifer calves 200-300 pounds, 58 to 62 cents; 300-400 pounds, 54 to 62 cents; 400-500 pounds, 52 to 58 cents; 500-600 pounds, 50 to 56 cents; replacement heifers, 56 to 75 cents.

Stockers: good stocker cows and heifers \$300 to \$400; commercial and medium stocker cows and heifers, \$250 to \$300; good cow and calf pairs, \$500 to \$585; medium cow and calf pairs, \$425 to \$500; common cow and calf pairs, \$325 to \$425.

Sheep: ewes, 10 to 20 cents per pound; lambs, 30 to 50 cents; bucks 10 to 20 cents; pairs \$25 to \$40 per pair.



All Stars

Members of the T-Ball All Stars from the Tigers and Cow Pokes are, front row from left, Brandon Mathis, Christian Cordova, Rossi Lujan, Jason Noska and Kim Henske. Back row from left, Donnie Obenhaus, Dean Hengst, Timothy Jones, Eddie Esparza and Belinda Gonzales.



The Yanks

Members of the 1984 Eagle Lake Yanks team are from left, front row, coach Curtis Wilson, Glenn Lippert, Patrick Powers, Shawn Turner, Casey Clippson, Johnny Gonzales and coach Larry Powers. Back row, from left, Darryl Anderson, Chris Mareka, Matthew Wilson, John Tillman, Robert Tillman and Noble Anderson.



1984 Red Sox

Members of the 1984 Eagle Lake Red Sox team are from left, front row, Melinda Fernandez, assistant coach, Melissa Luna, Melinda Torres, Marlon Gonzales, Delcis, and coach Johnny Luna. Back row, Alma Puga, Jeannette McYear, Janie Cantu, Elizabeth Puga, Jennifer Luna, and Benjie Luna.

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