



# TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

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June 9, 2025

Dr. Hensley Cone  
LaVernia ISD Superintendent  
13600 US Hwy 87 West  
LaVernia, Texas 78121

Dear Dr. Cone,

The summer is quickly slipping by, and we are already busy preparing for the 2025-26 4-H year, which officially begins September 1<sup>st</sup>. We appreciate your continued support of 4-H, and look forward to a strong partnership.

In preparing our 4-H families, your school personnel, and our staff for the next year's 4-H activities, we need your guidance and leadership in assuring that the State Board of Education's guidelines regarding 4-H are followed. **Please carefully review the information in this letter, and add the necessary items to the agenda of the next school board meeting.** If you have any questions, or would like us to discuss this at your next board meeting, please feel free to contact us. Once the items have been approved, we **will need a copy of the board's minutes for our files.** Please help us in communicating this information to your school personnel such as principals and attendance contacts.

**A.** First of all, we need to assure that 4-H is recognized as a sanctioned extracurricular activity within your school district by having your Board of Trustees **approve and return the completed "Resolution regarding Extracurricular Status of 4-H"** (Attachment A). Four-H is the nation's largest youth development program offering life skills and leadership training to youngsters in 4-H clubs, short term projects, and school curriculum programs. Currently, there are 500+ enrolled 4-H club members in Guadalupe County, many of which participate in a variety of contests and activities that would require them to miss school time. In sanctioning 4-H as an extracurricular activity within your school district, 4-H'ers are considered in attendance for Foundation School Purposes. Therefore, it is imperative that our school personnel count students present while they are participating in extracurricular activities.

**B.** The second item is HB 3573 (76<sup>th</sup> Legislature), which authorizes local trustees to ***determine the number of extracurricular days for students, who are otherwise eligible.*** The Texas Education Code requires a minimum of ten (10) days, but does not designate a maximum number of days that may be allocated for extracurricular participation. For our 4-H members, ***here are some*** of the contests and activities that would be counted toward their extracurricular time: State



Fair of Texas; Guadalupe County Youth Show; San Antonio Livestock Exposition; Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo; San Angelo Stock Show; District, State and National Judging Contests; National 4-H Congress; Southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show; Ag Fair, H<sub>2</sub>O for You and other school presentations; Star of Texas Fair and Rodeo; and the Texas 4-H Leadership Conference.

Of course, all band, athletic, and school club activities are also extracurricular. Because only a few days each semester are allowed for all of these numerous activities, students are limited in their participation. We certainly advocate that academics come first, but we also believe involvement in extracurricular activities enhances student performance and experience.

**C.** We are also dedicated to supporting the no pass, no play rule and the academic responsibility of our 4-H members. Along with requests for extracurricular participation, we will be asking school officials to declare eligibility for students wishing to participate in 4-H activities, whether during school time or not. Prior to the various events, we will send letters to each campus listing the names of their students who will be participating, and the ***school principal or designee must notify us of the eligibility of those students*** by signing and returning a form which will be attached to each letter. An example of this letter is attached (Attachment B) for your information. To enable us to forward our request to the appropriate faculty member in a more timely manner, we will need the **name, title, address, phone and fax numbers, and e-mail address of the attendance contact for each campus.** Given e-mail addresses, we will also be able to distribute information to these individuals, further explaining the extracurricular procedure for 4-H members.

**D.** Your school board also needs to **approve us as adjunct faculty members.** We request adjunct faculty member status for the Guadalupe County Extension faculty for the 2025-26 school year. The following faculty are eligible for participation in the Teacher Retirement System of Texas and have a minimum of a bachelor's degree.

☐ Travis Franke, County Extension Agent-Agriculture  
1989 Bachelor of Science-General Agriculture, Tarleton State University  
1998 Masters of Agricultural Education, Southwest Texas State University

☐ Jeff Hanselka, County Extension Agent-Agriculture  
1993 Bachelor of Science-Animal Science, Texas A&M University  
1994 Masters of Agriculture, Texas A&M University

☐ Matthew Miranda, County Extension Agent-4-H & Youth Development  
2009 Bachelor of Science-Ag Comm. and Journalism, Texas A&M University  
2010 Master of Education, Ag Leadership, Edu & Comm. Texas A&M University

☐ Dru Benavides, County Extension Agent-Family & Community Health  
2002 Bachelor of Science-Health & Wellness Promotion, Texas State University

**E.** The *Ag Fair* at the Texas Ag Education and Heritage Center in Seguin will be held in October for your 4<sup>th</sup> grade students and teachers (teachers will be contacted once school starts). It is conducted by Texas AgriLife Extension and the ag fair committee, using curriculum and activities created by the Guadalupe County Extension Office. In addition to the Ag Fair, some other programs in particular to highlight include *4-H<sub>2</sub>O for You Water Education* (3<sup>rd</sup> grade), *Learn, Grow, Eat, Go* (Elementary), and *Hatching in the Classroom* (all ages).

For these and many other ways of bringing 4-H into your classrooms, please see the enclosed brochure, Curriculum Enrichment Opportunities. We encourage you to share these opportunities with your curriculum director and other faculty members.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to working with you and your faculty in maintaining effective communication and ensuring positive activities for our 4-H youth. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns about any of the above mentioned matters.

Sincerely,

*Matt Miranda*

Matthew J. Miranda M.Ed.  
County Extension Agent-4-H&YD  
Guadalupe County

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Attachment



**RESOLUTION  
regarding  
EXTRACURRICULAR STATUS OF 4-H ORGANIZATION**

Be it hereby resolved that upon this date the duly elected Board of Trustees of the

*LaVernia Independent School District*

meeting in public with a quorum present and certified did adopt this resolution that recognizes the ***Guadalupe County, Texas 4-H Organization*** as approved for recognition and eligible for extracurricular status consideration under 19 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 76.1, pertaining to extracurricular activities, as well as the approval of the County Extension Agents as Adjunct Faculty of the district. Participation by 4-H members under provisions of this resolution are subject to all rules and regulations set forth under the 19 Texas Administrative Code as interpreted by this Board and designated officials of this school district whose rulings shall be final.

Approved this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(For Board of Trustees)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Superintendent)