



NATIONAL 4-H WEEK

OCTOBER 2-8, 2022

The following pages feature articles and photos from Montgomery County 4-H members. Congratulations to all members for their dedication, hard work and commitment they show.



Ava Engemann of the Big Spring Busy Beavers is proudly posing with her 4-H calf.



Lukas and Matthew Oliver of the Coon Creek Cronies are hanging out with their goats at the fair.



Avery Ridgley of the Kountry Kids is ready to compete at a 4-H horse show.

Goats

Thomas Happe, Big Spring Busy Beavers

This is the second year that I have raised my own goats to show at the fair. Out of 11 babies, I only had two males so not much to choose from. I was happy with my selection and named him Joe. Joe was a big boy from the start. He was one of three that the momma raised. All three babies weighed 6+ pounds at birth. He weighed 87 pounds at fair weigh-in. I enjoyed working with him and had a good time at the fair. He won rate of gain! I am always sad when it is time to sell them. It makes it a little easier knowing that we have more babies in January.

Wildlife

Matthew Oliver, Coon Creek Cronies

I have always loved being in nature and learning about different habitats. This year in my wildlife conservation project, I wanted to learn more about bees and how to help them. Bees help so much with our food supply by pollinating, so I made a bee pollinator house out of recycled goods. I painted a few cans and then rolled some scrap paper up to create combs inside the cans. I have hung this near my garden to help increase the bee population and it has helped my garden grow.

Goats

Lukas Oliver, Coon Creek Cronies

My name is Lukas Oliver and this is my first year doing goats as a project. In October, my brother and I purchased two nanny goats that we named Polly and Lucy. In January, they both gave birth to a kid and one was my goat Teddy. Teddy was Nubian-Boar cross. I would sometimes sneak him into the house and he would follow me around all over. I really enjoyed learning about goats and spending time raising him.

Beef

Emelia Hans, Kountry Kids

My name is Emelia Hans. I am nine years old and this is my first year in 4-H. I am a member of the Jonesburg Kountry Kids 4-H Club. One of my projects this year is beef. I raised a market steer that I named Hawkeye. He was very calm and he didn't mind getting a bath. I enjoyed working with Hawkeye this year and I look forward to showing a steer next year.

Parts of the bike

Kolton Craven, Middletown Meddlers

This is my first year being in the bikes program. Knowing the parts of the bike is something I always wanted to know. I wanted to know how they work and where they go. I knew I had the perfect club leader for this project and that was my grandpa. He used to make his own bikes when he was little. So it took awhile, but my grandfather and I were able to take a bike completely apart. At times, it was hard to do and he would have to turn it the first time for me. But I got strong on this project. I was able to put all my parts in the basket. Something I learned from this project was to not rush it. I need to take my time and not get so frustrated. I think this will help. I also liked getting to know how all of the parts work. I hope you all liked my basket.

Swine

Jonah Happe, Big Spring Busy Beavers

This year, I bought extra pigs to sell with appointments for butchering. I have had several people ask me to grow an extra pig for them to butcher so I wanted to do that along with my show pig for the fair. This year, I am going to try to breed my sow for a litter due at the right time next year. I have always wanted to raise my own piglets. I enjoy working with pigs and enjoy eating them as well.



Lukas Oliver of the Coon Creek Cronies is showing off his catch for sportfishing.

Woodworking

Malachi Nichols, Coon Creek Cronies

My name is Malachi Nichols. This is my first year in 4-H. I was able to learn a lot from my dad and grandpa. They helped me fix up an old wooden wagon.

We replaced the rotten wood with nicer repurposed wood. I stained all of the board and spray painted the wagon. They taught me how to use the tools I needed. I also added some character to it and made a place to put a flower pot.

I learned a lot when I was working on my project, it is easier to fix problems when you work together. Working on my project makes me really excited to do more woodworking projects and learn more about it.



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My year in sewing

Anna Johnson, Kountry Kids

For my sewing projects this year, I made a dress, a drawstring bag and a quilt. For the quilt, I got to go to a place in Hermann called the Quilting Bee. They were hosting a sewing camp. I started making a quilt with some other people I got to meet.

We started out by picking out fabric squares. Then, we got to sew them into long strips of material. Then, we got to sew all of the strips together to form the top of the quilt. Next, we put the stuffing and the fleece on it and sewed it all together! It was a very fun experience!

For the dress, I made it with my grandma and we got to spend some quality time together throughout the process. First, my grandma and I cut the fabric. Then, we sewed the ends together to make a tube-like shape. We ironed it and put the elastic on it. Then, we sewed the bias tape on and tied it at the ends to fit me. Lastly, we hemmed the end of the dress. It was a very fun thing to do.

For the last project, I made a drawstring bag. I used a video from online to learn how to do it. I started out by ironing my fabric to make it easier to measure it out. Then, I cut it and marked the places for the casing to go. Then, I sewed the large square part of the bag together. I made the casing and hemmed the edges of it. I put the strings in and I tied them together. I was then able to put all sorts of things in my new bag!

Rabbits

Mason Pace, Big Spring Busy Beavers

We got our silver fox rabbits in April. We ended up getting three females and one male. My dad put four cages together on a wooden structure under an awning on the side of our garage. We fed and watered them four to five times a day and made sure they didn't overheat by adding a fan to blow on them during the hot part of the day. They weren't friendly at first, but they became friendly because we played with them about 30 minutes a day. Every day, we put them in an open top cage in the yard and sat inside with them to pet and play with them. They tried to jump out at first, but then they started exploring inside of it with us. When we took our first rabbits to get tattooed, Tammy Teeter let us know they were too big and helped get us replacements. We brought them home and got them settled and used to us. I went to a meeting about how to show and take care of my rabbits and learned a lot. I learned how to present my rabbit for the judge and what types of questions they might ask of me about my rabbit. I also learned how to prepare my rabbit

to show by making sure she was brushed and she had her nails trimmed. When I did show my rabbit at the fair, I placed 10th. It felt great to place in my first year in 4-H!

Swine

Riley Schutt, Big Spring Busy Beavers

I first got my hogs in March on weigh-in day. They were scared of me because they have never seen a new place and you would have to be still for them to pet them and then I would let them smell me so they get to know me better.

I would fill their waterers up and clean out the pen. When it is hot, I would spray them down and check their feed. Then when I would go with my grandpa, I would spray them down and check water and spray the pen down, then I would clean it out. After I'm done with that, I would pet them and feed them marshmallows and they would chew on my boots.

Then when the feed was low, I would tell daddy and he and I would go get the food from MFA Coop in Hermann. I named my pigs Bacon and Eggs. They were both friendly and they were both boys and got pretty big and fat.

The one hog was hard to load and unload from the trailer when we took it to the fair. Bacon did well at the fair. He weighed 324 pounds. He was heavy. I would spray him down when I woke up at the fair and checked his food and water. He did well at the fair. I was very proud of Bacon. When I sold him, he went to the packing house and did not come home with me. I always love to show my pig and help other 4-H members get their pigs in the ring.

Sewing

Jillian Weekley, Bellflower Boosters

My name is Jillian Weekley and I am 13 years old. This is my fifth year in the Bellflower Boosters 4-H Club. This year, I took Sewing 3, Swine 2, Cake Decorating I and Photography I. I love being creative in 4-H and learning new things each year.

For sewing this year, I chose to make a dress at first and continue to work on how to put in an invisible zipper. My leader and I went shopping at JoAnn's and picked out my pattern, fabric and notions. I chose to make a 100 percent cotton dress that I can wear to church, nice events or out with my family. The fabric is turquoise and has a geometric pattern on it. The pattern I picked out had a halter top and an A-line skirt and I thought it would look nice on me and be comfortable. Learning how to do the circle band for the collar would also be something new to work on.

I had forgotten how easy it was to cut out and work with 100 percent cotton fabric, as the past two year I had worked with knits and silky fabrics. I cut out all of my pieces and laid them out and began to work through put-

ting them together like I always have. The pattern brand that I bought was Burda, and the instructions were not as easy to follow as others that I have used in the past. My leader said that Burda is a German company and that they write the instructions differently. She helped me to figure out what they were meaning and by the end I understood their different terms and directions better. The circle band at the top of the halter was very tricky, as the fabric was thick and it had to be done nicely in order for it to lie correctly when I wore the dress. It took a lot of time, but it turned out great. I did another invisible zipper, with a hook and eye closure above on the back of the dress. The skirt has a slight gather at the waist line and an A-line shape, so it hangs away nicely. I finished my hem by hand sewing a blind hem.

I participated in Judging and Achievement Day and placed first in the dressy category and will go to the State Fashion Revue on Oct. 8. I also got a blue and gold ribbon at the Montgomery County Fair and my dress got to be exhibited at the State Fair.

After Fashion Revue, I decided that I wanted to also make a jean jacket to go with my dress, out of 100 percent cotton. There is a special category at State Fashion Revue for 100 percent cotton and I thought the extra jacket might help me to have a better chance at winning that category. So, off to JoAnn's we went to purchase what we needed for a jean jacket. I had to work hard to get this done in order to turn in a picture with registration. I completed the jacket in three days! The jacket is loose fitting and has three-quarter length sleeves. It had a lot of seams, the ones in the front and back are called princess seams and all of them had to be topstitched. I chose to topstitch in navy blue thread instead of white or blue like you often see. I really like how the top stitching turned out. I think it makes the jacket look dressier. The collar was tricky as it was also thick and I had to turn it and make the points nice and neat. This was my first time doing buttonholes. I used a buttonhole foot and my machine does the hard work for you. However, I learned that the thickness of where I was putting them made my machine not want to move well, so I had to help it more than I normally would have. Lining them all up the same was hard, but they turned out great. Then I sewed on the 12 buttons! The jacket also has pockets on the front with buttoned flaps and buttoned cuffs on the sleeves. I am really glad I chose to make the jacket as I really think it is a nice addition to the dress, and I can use it with a lot of other outfits.

I wear my dress and jacket to church and plan on wearing it to school and other nice events. It is comfortable and stylish. I have had a lot of people ask if I can make them one, but I'm not sure I am ready to sew for hire yet! I look forward to next year and a new challenge!



Kendra Stille of the Kountry Kids is holding the rabbit she raised.



Matthew Oliver of the Coon Creek Cronies proudly holds one of his chickens.



A chair made by Owen Hillebrand of the Bellflower Boosters is shown on the front porch.

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Carmen Stille of the Kountry Kids is showing off all the Granny squares she made in crochet.

4-H Story

Faith Engemann, Big Spring Busy Beavers

My name is Faith Engemann and I joined 4-H because I wanted to be a leader. I also joined 4-H to learn how to care for animals and to grow knowing how to be more confident. I have been in 4-H for four years and I have done many projects in those four years. I really liked most of them, but I may have to try the other projects when I'm older. I think that working hard and being involved are important. Our 4-H club is good at doing both of those things. In 4-H, I have learned how to interact with people. I have learned how to stand up in front of a crowd and to learn to be a better leader. I have learned to be a better role model for others by doing the right thing and learning to teach others what I know. I take better care of my animals by going to meetings on how to do that. I have met lots of new people and I have had so much fun at the fair learning how to work with more people and how to make a few friends.

I have been on our leadership team for three years now. I worked my way up from birthday announcer to assistant secretary and then to historian. I have chosen to get involved because I used to be really quiet and didn't like to speak in front of people. I got outside of my comfort zone and now I am funny, like making new friends and I am much more confident. I have owned my own egg business for four years. I text and talk to my customers. I have to plan a route for delivery, keep track of my money and make sure to clean and organize my eggs and chicken house. It is all hard work, but I am using the money to go to a big horse show in Tulsa, Okla., this winter. It is about \$1,200 and I am paying for it all myself. I don't want to waste that much money, so I am working hard and practicing to do well at the show.

I also raise goats and sell them to other 4-H participants. The goats I sold did well this year. They won rate of gain and placed second in the shows at the County Fair in Cuba. I price them reasonably so that other kids can show them with a quality animal, but still make a little bit of money. I like to help other kids succeed.

What I liked best about 4-H was meeting new people. I met so many new people this year at the fair, at project meetings and in my own club. I found out that just starting a conversation with somebody can lead to new friendships and even spark a little happiness into someone's sad day. I want to help other people share friendliness with others, too. When you do that it makes you feel good and it makes others feel good about themselves. The fair was my other favorite part about 4-H this year. I had a couple of my things get blue/gold, Old Threshers, red or blue ribbons. I also saw many cool ideas that people put their heart into. I might even try their idea.

Small engines

Brayson Pierson, Montgomery Progressors

My name is Brayson Pierson and this was my first year in 4-H. I enjoyed 4-H because it was fun.

I took small engines for one of my projects. I made a poster showing how the main part of an engine works and the different engine layouts.

I was very happy to share some of my knowledge about automobiles all while being in 4-H.

My 4-H Story

Lynn Knoepflein, Montgomery Progressors

I am Lynn Knoepflein, a first-year 4-H member from the Montgomery Progressors 4-H Club. My projects this year were swine, sewing, foods and arts and crafts and exploring the treasures of 4-H. With my swine project, I learned how to take care of animals and financial responsibility for expenses incurred in feeding and taking care of my hogs. With my sewing project, I learned the basics of the sewing machine and also about all types of materials that you can use to make items. I cut and measured the materials to sew a pillowcase and 4-H tote bag. With my food projects I learned how to measure ingredients and reading a recipe and mixing and baking items. I made cookies, brownies, granola bars, a cake and homemade lemonade. With my arts and crafts project, I was able to express my artistic abilities. I made multiple projects for the fair but only submitted three. I enjoyed making paint pour painting, tie-dye shirts, stained glass painting and string art. With exploring and treasures of 4-H, I learned how to judge projects, bake items, learned about house safety, ceramics, took a nature walk at Graham Cave to see the wildflowers and how to do a demonstration.

My favorite project was my hogs and foods. I love animals and plan to be a veterinarian in the future. I love being able to make items that are delicious.

My Pig

Jackson Harris, Bellflower Boosters

We went to get our pigs in March before weigh-in. My pig was 38 pounds at the first weigh-in. My brother, cousin and I kept our pigs together. It was cold when they were little so we had to give them straw so they could be warm. I had to feed them, check on them and give them water every day. We also had to keep their pen clean. They ate a lot of food and grew really fast. At fair weigh-in, my pig was 267 pounds. At the show, I got third in my class and fourth overall. My favorite part of having a pig at the fair was selling it at the auction because I got to wear my cowboy hat. The buyer gave my pig back, so we took him to the butcher. Now, he is in my grandma's freezer. He is delicious.



Cohen Beattie of the Big Spring Busy Beavers is leading his bucket calf.

Arts and Crafts III

Cora Johnson, Kountry Kids

My name is Cora Johnson and this is my ninth year in 4-H and my third year in arts and crafts. Since I was a little girl, I have loved to create things. Busting out the art supplies and using my imagination to create something was, and still is, one of my favorite things to do whenever I have free time. When I joined the arts and crafts project a few years ago, I finally had the opportunity to set aside time to be creative.

This year, I taught myself how to make a few different projects. Perhaps my favorite one was learning how to quill, or the art of 3-D paper making cards. I was given the opportunity to buy a quilling set and I have been learning how to make different designs using the many tools. It has been a large learning curve, but there is nothing better than being able to complete your own project of your own design.

This year, I also learned how to make morse code bracelets. I had purchased the supplies in 2020, but simply hadn't attempted to make many of the bracelets yet. With a little practice and quite a few YouTube videos, I was able to learn how to use the fine string to make adjustable bracelets. Through this process, I also taught myself morse code! It isn't as complicated as you might think, and I enjoyed being able to learn while I created.

I loved this year's projects in arts and crafts, and I hope to continue to create!

Scrapbooking

Adrianna Craven, Middletown Meddlers

I have been in 4-H for three years. This is my third year in scrapbooking. When I first picked scrapbooking, I had my first idea immediately. I told my mom I wanted to be able to record the process of redoing our house. This is something that truly means a lot to me. I wanted to see how much work we truly put in our house from what it was. I had to go through all of our pictures because I wanted everyone to be on the page. So that did take me some time. I also wanted to put my own title, so I had to really take my time. On this page, I wanted to blend colors and I was able to do that. My grandmother was able to have different kinds of cardstock that she was able to share with me. This project took the support of my whole family, and it was amazing to see the final image. Thank you all for looking at my project.

Goats

Matthew Oliver, Coon Creek Cronies

In September, I decided I wanted to try goats as a 4-H project. My brother and I worked on building a shelter we thought we could keep goats in. In October, we went to the sale barn after doing some research and purchased two nanny boer goats that we named Polly and Lucy. We had plans to breed them, but found out that they were already pregnant.

In January, both goats gave birth to a kid. My goat was named Shadow as she was coal black. She was very high spirited and hard to break to lead when it came time to show her at the fair. She weighed 72 pounds during fair week and did really well in the show ring. Raising her has taught me a lot of patience.

Crochet

Carmen Stille, Kountry Kids

When I started crochet this year, I didn't think I would have this much fun! In December, I went to an Arts Council class for crochet. I learned at that class how to make a simple chain and make a flower. Then, YouTube and I figured out how to make a granny square. I am still working on getting enough squares to make an afghan. My grandma taught me a couple patterns for pretty baby afghans. Grandma has been a really big help with crochet because she crochets as well. She has been really patient while teaching me different patterns. I went to another Arts Council class in May, where I learned to make a snowflake. Finally, it was time for the fair! The fair is always the highlight of my 4-H year. My crochet entries were ready. I entered a baby afghan, a granny square, and a snowflake. All my entries did pretty well. I can't wait for next year so I can do it all over again.

Sheep

Kinzey Ebker, Kountry Kids

Hi, my name is Kinzey Ebker. This is my second year of 4-H. I live on a small farm in Jonesburg. On the farm, I raise sheep. This year was my first year having sheep born here. I learned all of my stuff from my mom. She is important to all of my 4-H stuff and about sheep. What I have learned about sheep over my two years of 4-H is that you need to be responsible. Also, 4-H has a lot of challenges. One of those is giving sheep their shots. That's hard because they get spooked easily. The people I give credit are my mom, dad, grandma, grandpa, aunts and uncles.

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Faith Engemann of the Big Spring Busy Beavers is working with her dog.

My hog

Gigi Francois, Kountry Kids

My hog's name is Dwight and my spare hog's name is Jim. Both were named after characters from the TV show, "The Office." This year, I picked out my hogs. My brothers didn't help this time! They were both very muscular. I was very pleased with how he showed. I used lots of marshmallows and attention to tame them. It was a special year because it was my brother Hayden's senior year. It was the last year I will show with either one of my brothers. We were in the same class at the show. Thank you for reading my story.

Gardening

Carl Johnson, Kountry Kids

This year, my mom and I made a raised garden bed for the fair and for produce to eat. We started out raising a garden bed with a "split waterfall" garden bed. Next, we started building that garden bed. When it was complete, we filled the bottom for a partial weed barrier. Now, we were down to one of the final steps. We went to Lowe's, got plenty of seeds and got plenty of soil to fill up the bed. When we got back, we filled up the bed. We mixed both our raised garden bed soil and our compost blend. Now, we were ready to plant! We planted sugar snap peas, spaghetti squash, zucchini and cucumbers. That is how mom and I made a raised garden bed.

4-H story

Emma Cobb, Bellflower Boosters

My name is Emma Cobb and I am 12 years old. This is my third year in the Bellflower Boosters 4-H club. My projects this year are Swine 2, Floriculture and Photography. This past year, I tried some new projects and activities in 4-H.

My new project this year was photography. I love to take pictures so I thought that this was a good project to take for me. I learned a lot about lighting and using different settings on a camera. We had a new puppy this year, so I did a lot of experimenting with the camera taking pictures of him.

Another project that I love is floriculture. I like to help my mom in her flower gardens and plant new things. So this is a great project for those who like to grow plants and flowers. My zinnia patch is improving every year from things I'm learning.

This year, I attended a teen conference for the first time. It was an overnight event in Columbia. I got to share a room with my cousin, so that was a lot of fun! We did a lot of fun leadership and team building activities over the conference. If you have a chance to go, you definitely should.

I also went to 4-H camp this year, which was just day camp, but it was still so much fun. We did some really cool activities that we learned from. I got to try my luck at archery at one station – it is way harder than it looks. I'm really excited to get to go back to overnight 4-H camp this coming year.

4-H is a great way to make new friends and learn new things. I encourage you to join 4-H and step out of your comfort zone to try new things.

Proper diet for a husky

Kolten Craven, Middletown Meddlers

This is my second year being in the "dog" program. My project leaders were my dad, my grandfather and my grandma. I was also able to get some very helpful information from a local vet. I now know how to make a different diet for my dog by just going to the feed store with my parents. Sometimes when I make different food for my dog, I can help his heart be healthy. His stomach could also be healthy, too. Sometimes this food that I use could make his bowels work better according to what the vet told me. When huskies get sick to their stomach sometimes, they do not sleep well and they could roam around, not being able to lay down. If my dog goes on long trips with us again, I think I am going to make his own food. I hope my dog's diet can help you with your dog.

Arts and crafts

Kyndall Groeber, Montgomery Progressors

I like arts and crafts. My favorite part was building the basket. I made my bead bowl with my two favorite colors. Next year, I want to do arts and crafts again.

Robotics

Carl Smith, Montgomery Progressors

I participated in the Montgomery City Public Library Robotics program. We programmed the LEGO EV3 robots. I make the robots move, spin and pick up stuff. We also got to explore with the Sphero robots. They are ball robots that we can control using the tablets. We also got to work with the Dash robot. I love that the library has these cool robots to play with!

Cooking

Harrison Vomund, Bellflower Boosters

My name is Harrison Vomund. I am 10 years old. It is my third year as a member of the Bellflower Boosters 4-H club. This year, my projects are Swine I, Woodworking II, Foods I and Gardening I. I decided to take Foods this year to learn how to make some of my favorite dishes and treats.

At my project meetings, I learned a lot of kitchen skills like measuring wet and dry ingredients properly, cooking meat, preparing vegetables and kitchen clean-up. I learned how to brown ground beef for tacos and spaghetti, how to bake potatoes and how to make beer bread.

For my project exhibits at the county fair, I made Grandma's butter cookies with glaze icing in the shape of four leaf clovers for 4-H. I also made beer bread in mini loaves and Scotcherros. I learned that you have to work fast when pressing the cereal mixture in the pan and you have to be careful not to burn the chocolate chip and butterscotch chip topping when you melt it on the stove. I have been icing and decorating cookies with my grandma for a long time and now I know how to mix the dough, chill it, roll out cookies and press into shapes and bake. When we were making beer bread, we ran out of self-rising flour, so we made it ourselves.

I am glad I now can do more in the kitchen and look forward to learning how to make more things.

Starting rabbits

Kendra Stille, Kountry Kids

Hi, my name is Kendra Stille and I have been enrolled in rabbits for two years now. I am nine years old. When I was 8, I started 4-H and I wanted to do rabbits. My 2021 rabbits were from the Johnsons. Then this year, I got a doe and bred her with a black and white New Zealand. She had her babies on May 18, 2022. She had a litter of seven, but one didn't make it. I kept two for the fair and the one that I sold did well in the auction. My dad also helped me build a rabbit cage to put in the 4-H building for rabbits. I have learned a lot and had lots of fun. I really enjoy doing rabbits.

Blueprint of a house

Adrianna Craven, Middletown Meddlers

I have been in 4-H for three years. This is my first year in interior design. This project was very hard for me. First, I needed to have an idea of how I wanted to build a house. That required me to make decisions and I was very indecisive. After I finally figured out how many bedrooms and bathrooms, I needed to plan. I was able to have the help of one of my dad's friends. He taught me how blueprints are laid out. I was able to use my mom's long ruler which helped me with straight lines. I think with this project, I will be able to help my dad with the layout of our chicken coop we plan to build this fall. It is very important that you get the right measurements. If you do not, then your whole house can be off and that can mess up work for your builder. Not only will it mess up your builder, it can mess up anything you bought ahead of time. I hope you all like my blueprint. I plan to explore this idea next year and try to do a two-story house. I hope this blueprint passes your inspections.

Rabbits

Mariah Miller, Bellflower Boosters

One of my projects was raising rabbits. I got three of them. They were black California mixed with a silver fox. They were all male. I had to feed them every day and give them fresh water. I had to clean their poop as well. I learned how to hold them and take care of them. I got really attached to them. I was nervous to show him at the fair, but I had fun. I loved taking care of my rabbits. I learned a lot. Next year, I want to do it again.

Poultry

Waylon Deeker, Bellflower Boosters

My name is Waylon Deeker. This is my first year of 4-H and I show poultry. Chickens are really fun animals to show. I learned a lot of stuff like that they like to take baths and they like to be taken care of. I also learned that they will get sores on their feet if you don't change their bedding. They are also very messy. They also eat and drink a lot, so you have to feed them and give them water.

I had a lot of responsibilities during the fair. I had to check on them a couple of times a day during the whole week. I had to give them a bath twice.

Arts and crafts

Kynsley Groeber, Montgomery Progressors

My arts and crafts project was fun. My favorite thing was the bed bowl. I want to do arts and crafts next year.

Breads

Grayson Gerding

Hi, my name is Grayson Gerding and I am from the Montgomery Progressors 4-H club. This is my fourth year of 4-H, and I was a clover kid before that. I was the treasurer for the Montgomery Progressors club. Our club did some fun things this year, like painting pumpkins and hiking at Graham Cave State Park. We also had a pool party after the week of the fair. Our club helped out the community by packing NRG bags, making blessing bags for the homeless, making cards for veterans, collecting canned foods and shaking the tambourine for Montgomery County Cares. I was able to attend the 4-H day camp at the Lincoln County Fairgrounds. I really like the day camps because they are during the day and not overnight. This year, my projects were: Archery, Smallbore .22 Rifle, Air Pistol (never met), Sewing I, Arts and Crafts and Breads. My favorite project once again was Breads.

The reason for Breads being my favorite project was because I was able to try new foods, eat some yummy food and have fun. My favorite recipe this year was pizza. I was able to use yeast for the first time in the pizza dough, and it was really easy to do. I also liked the colonial bread we made. It had the same recipe as beer bread, but we swapped the beer out for milk. Something I did learn was to never mix up baking powder and baking soda in a recipe! Baking soda has a bad taste when you use too much.



A new event for 2022 was the Battle of the Clubs in which each 4-H Club formed a team and participated in different challenges.



This LEGO table was built by Alex Oden of the Kountry Kids and awarded a Blue/Gold ribbon at the Montgomery County fair.



Jett Beattie of the Big Spring Busy Beavers is proudly showing off his State Fair bound small engines project.



Carl Smith and Grayson Gerding, both of the Montgomery Progressors, are showing off their pizzas with project leader, Pat Korman.



Carl Smith is learning how to do an arts and crafts project while watching a video.

Poultry

Lucy Politsch, Kountry Kids

My name is Lucy Politsch and this is my first year in 4-H. I am in the Jonesburg Kountry Kids club. This year, I did poultry because I have egg-laying chickens and thought it would be similar to raising them. I got my Cornish Cross game birds from Mrs. Teeter and learned how to wash and hold them by Mrs. Szachnieski. I fed my birds with 22 percent game bird crumbles from the MFA. When my birds were about three weeks old, I built a cage for them to be outside. I soon discovered that they were getting too big for the cage, so I found that if you let them out under a tree, they won't go very far to enjoy the shade. I would let them out for three to four hours a day. Then, I would put them in for the night in the garage. By putting them out in the fresh air, it helped build their muscles and helped their legs get stronger. Two weeks before the fair, I gave them cracked corn to help with the yellowing of their shanks. It was fun to see how the color of their feet changed with the more they ate of the corn. Finally, we took them to the fair. On July 20, they were named Grand Champion in poultry.

About a week after the fair, we butchered my meat chickens. My grandpa came and showed us the whole process for butchering them. First, you pin them down to a stump, then you chop off their heads with an ax, hang them in a tree upside down so the blood drains out and put them in scalding hot water for a minute or two so the feathers can be plucked off easily. You can either quarter the meat or leave them whole. We butchered 16 Cornish Cross game birds that day. With that day, I enjoyed my first year in 4-H and I look forward to doing poultry again next year.

My 4-H Story

Gracie Cobb, Bellflower Boosters

My name is Gracie Cobb. I am 14 years old and this is my sixth year in the Bellflower Boosters 4-H Club. My projects this year include Swine 3, Agronomy and Crochet. This past 4-H year, I was elected president of the Bellflower Booster 4-H Club, so I spent the year presiding over 4-H members and making leadership decisions.

I tried a new project out this year. I was really determined to learn how to crochet so I could make things for myself and friends. My mom said we would learn together. So we watched several videos on YouTube on crocheting. It was really hard to get started and to keep my stitches straight and tight. The more I practiced the better I got. I ended up making two projects for the fair, a potholder and a dish rag. It's really cool to be able to now use these things I made at home in the kitchen. Every time I use them, it reminds me of all of the hard work and patience I put into these things.

A few other things that I tried out this year in 4-H were being a camp counselor at 4-H camp and attending State Congress. In both new adventures, I had a lot of fun and made some new friends. Being a camp counselor was really fun. I got to lead several activities during day camp and teach the younger members how to be a good role model in 4-H. I can't wait to have an overnight 4-H camp back to be a counselor there this year! At the State Congress, I learned a lot of new things and practiced some good team building and leadership skills. If you get the chance to attend either of these events, you definitely should.

I'm very excited about all the things I accomplished this year in 4-H. I encourage you to join a 4-H club and try some new things.

Swine

Blake Ridgley, Kountry Kids

For my Swine project, I purchased two pigs. I named one Gorg and the other one Oliver. At the fair, when I would pet Gorg, he wags his tail.

Rabbits

Mackenzie Kline, Kountry Kids

I had lots of fun with my rabbit. I had lots of goals going into the 2021-2022 4-H year. I met most of my goals. My goals were learning how to take care of a rabbit, learning how to show and learning more about 4-H. I have many more, too. I thank Kendra Stille for my rabbit. Kendra taught me so much about rabbits.

I learned how to position my rabbits and check their teeth, ears and nose. Tammy Teeter also helped me a lot! Showing was very scary. I am so thankful for all of the people who helped me. I am so ready to start the 2022-2023 4-H year. My goals for me and my rabbit this year are placing higher, spending more time with the 4-H and having a great fair week. Next year, I am going to breed my own rabbits. I plan on breeding my fair rabbit this year. I want to raise my own rabbits because I think it will give me more time with the rabbit! I also think it will be easier to get them heavier because they will be on the same food the whole time. Thank you Angie for helping me this year. Thank you Daryl and Chelsea Stille, Ben Toedebush, Angie and Chad Francois, Len Toedebush and Travis Ludy for buying my 2022 market rabbit.

Photography

Ava Engemann, Big Spring Busy Beavers

One of my most significant projects that is more recent in photography. I started doing photography when I was 12 years old. I remember one of my first meetings was going to a neighbor's farm and taking pictures of flowers and butterflies. My camera was an old, tiny Nikon and the quality was very poor. Over time, I used a waterproof camera so I could get underwater shots. Today, I use a Canon EOS with a 17-85 mm lens and I absolutely love the pictures. I have started to grow my photography skills as a small business and have done a family photo session as well as four senior sessions with more already booked. I am so excited to be sharing my pictures with others and capturing memories for people. These skills were founded through 4-H. Skills like communication, finances and marketing all play a part in my new photography endeavors. I have to find a way to put samples out on social media and communicate with customers so we can compromise on dates and locations. Then, I have to set a price so I can figure a steady cash flow to pay for other projects like my steer. I like to think of it as the cycle of growing, working your way up so you can create a steady business in the end.

I started out with projects like Cake Decorating, Horses and Poultry. I found what I liked and didn't like as much as then I would change it up the older I got. I grew my livestock to goats and sold them to fellow 4-H'ers. To add more crafts, I started arts and crafts. The more I found what I really enjoyed, I chose things like photography, archery and woodworking. Now, I have experience in multiple areas, and I can try new projects like public speaking to help me prepare for college interviews and professional business areas. These skills will be carried with me the rest of my life.

Sheep

Benjamin Cobb, Kountry Kids

My name is Benjamin Cobb and I am a member of the Jonesburg Kountry Kids 4-H club. This is my third year in 4-H and my third year in sheep.

I chose to raise a lamb again this year for my 4-H project. I had to feed and water my sheep every morning and every night. This year, I named my lamb Hopper. When I was halter breaking him, he would bully up and then jump on me. It was difficult to break him. I showed my sheep at the fair and sold him at the livestock auction.

Market lamb

Ella Cobb, Kountry Kids

Hi, I'm Ella Cobb and this is my sixth and last year raising a market lamb. Over the last six years, I have learned so much. I have learned how to treat a variety of health issues, how to band a lamb, how to shear a lamb and how to care for the lamb properly so you get your best outcome.

There's no doubt that the past six years came with many challenges. A couple that came this year, in particular, was halter breaking my lamb. My lamb was extra stubborn and it took a while to get him to trust the halter and me. After a lot of time working with him, he finally started to cooperate and it was smooth sailing from there. One thing I would have done differently last year was work harder to build my lambs muscle.

I have loved showing my lambs over the years and am sad to see that it's over. Showing has taught me a lot, not only about lambs but about myself. I have grown as a person and showing made me step out of my comfort zone a few times. I wouldn't trade the experience for the world and I am grateful for all of the lessons and memories.

Gardening

Harrison Vomund, Bellflower Boosters

My name is Harrison Vomund. I am 10 years old. It is my third year as a member of the Bellflower Boosters 4-H Club. This year, my projects are Swine I, Woodworking II, Foods I and Gardening I. This year, I decided to take gardening as a 4-H project because I enjoy helping my mom and grandparents grow vegetables and herbs in the garden. My favorite vegetables are cucumbers and tomatoes!

This spring, I helped prepare the garden and pots for planting. We made rows, dug holes for plants and weeded. I went to a local greenhouse with my mom where we selected pepper plants, tomato plants and many herbs. In the garden, we planted the tomato and pepper plants and a variety of seeds. We had some trouble getting the garden in with the rain and cool weather. In pots at my house, we planted herbs.

For my 4-H projects this year, I displayed mini cucumbers and green beans. I learned that a garden requires attention, weeding and watering! I helped my grandma put tomato juice and green beans in cans. I liked gardening because I like to eat some of the vegetables I grow. Next year, I want to grow potatoes, carrots and corn!

