

Outcome Summaries:

- 4-H youth attained learning experiences after a long time preparing their animals for exhibition
- New cutting-edge production technologies featured at Cotton Conference
- Ag producers benefited from CEU classes
- Safety Day goals set for provides training and resources for local communities to conduct one-day safety and health programs
- 4-H speakers claim national title & inspire younger peers

Deaf Smith

Mission Statement

Improving the lives of people, businesses, and communities across Texas and beyond through high-quality, relevant education.

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age or national origin.

The Texas A&M University System,
U. S. Department of Agriculture,
and the County Commissioners
Courts of Texas Cooperating.



4-H Youth Activities — December and January were a flurry of activities in the practice arena and preparing for the county show festivities. In December the livestock club hosted a **Project Show** for all 4-H and FFA students who wanted to participate in and learn from a mock stock show environment. This was a great experience for new showmen to have ring practice in a learning environment. Thirty-five youth took part in this one-day event, exhibiting lambs, goats, swine and rabbits. The **County Livestock Show** followed up a month later in mid-January with 84 exhibitors showing



250 swine, rabbits, goats, lambs, heifers and steers over a three-day period. This was an excellent learning experience for our youth after a long time of preparing their animals to be able to exhibit them at the county show for recognition and awards. The county show was capped off with a premium sale that netted approximately \$182,000 for the exhibitors in premium and add-on monies. Several Deaf Smith 4-H youth will be participating in many of the major stock shows that continue through mid-March.

Hereford Cotton Conference was presented by Texas AgriLife employees and area seed and chemical companies to update and present new and cutting-edge technologies for area cotton producers. Some of the topics covered were: Mark Kelly, cotton specialist, Lubbock, presented research from the cropping year and outlined plans for the 2015 spring plantings. Dr. Peter Dotray, Texas Tech was the highlight of the afternoon, presenting his work on glyphosate resistance of amaranth in cotton and options and tools to assist in reducing weed populations in cotton production.

Dana Porter, irrigation engineer from Lubbock, gave an update on her ongoing irrigation research as it related to cotton in our area. Dana also discussed updates and new regulations on applying pesticides through irrigation systems for the upcoming year. Strategies and tools to utilize limited irrigation water resources by Dr. Porter was also presented and well received by producers. Dr. John Robison presented cotton marketing strategies for the upcoming year and how to take advantage of the current world market situation in cotton. Agent presented research and plot data for 2014. Thirty-five area producers attended with three CEU'S offered in both private applicators and Certified Crop Advisor's licenses. Cost recovery was applied to this event.



Cropping Conference—Agent held a producer meeting in cooperation with Wilbur-Ellis with 45 producers in attendance. Topics covered were: fine-tuning irrigation, water monitoring, corn and sorghum production practices and upcoming hybrids, more efficient use of corn and sorghum forage hybrids in the dairy industry, cotton varieties that pertain to our specific area, cotton production and establishment in the first 40 days of planting and cotton disease issues. Agent gave update on cotton plots results and grain sorghum demonstration plot work in our area and discussed pesticide laws and regulations as it applies to the private applicator. Three CEU'S were offered to the conference participants.

Deaf Smith County

Deaf Smith County is well on the way to host its *Progressive Agriculture Safety Day* in May. This will be the culmination of training, sponsors and presenters coming together to improve the quality of life for 350 area 5th graders.

Many in agriculture know someone whose life has been affected by a farm-related injury or death. The statistics are sobering. Even more tragic is that these incidents could have been prevented with a few simple safety precautions. That's why the Progressive Agriculture Foundation® is on a crusade to bring safety and health information to the farming communities who desperately need it.

At the heart of this effort is the *Progressive Agriculture Safety Day*® program. This educational program provides training and resources for local communities to conduct one-day safety and health programs. Safety Days are designed to be age-appropriate, hands-on, safe fun for children.

LEARNING GUN SAFETY: 4-H Shooting Sports youngsters review safe shooting practices in preparation for upcoming contests.



PASSING THE TORCH: Closing out their 4-H careers, National Champion speakers Darren Schlabs and Cutter Smith inspire the next generation of 4-H kids to try public speaking. Pictured are Clover Kids Josef and Johan Grotegut and Cadence Copeland.

Local 4-H members **Darren Schlabs** and **Cutter Smith** were named National Champions in Public Speaking on Jan. 11 at Western National Roundup in Denver, CO. The Deaf Smith County 4-H team competed Jan. 9 in the Family and Consumer Sciences Presentations contest with their educational presentation, entitled "Buck Dynasty."

In their presentation, the 4-H duo used humor and an informative slideshow to illustrate the importance of teaching adolescents the financial facts of life. They qualified for national finals by winning at the state level this past June.



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