



**NATIONAL
4-H WEEK**
OCTOBER 3-9, 2021

Jett Beattie of Big Spring Busy Beavers poses with his bucket calf, Chip.

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.



Swine

Shea Stille, Bellflower Boosters

Spring is always a joyful time for 4-H kids who plan on showing pigs at the fair. It means piglets, weigh-in, and feeding every morning before school. But the kids who do this enjoy the early mornings and I am no exception. This spring I purchased a purebred Berkshire barrow and a gilt from Black and Gold Swine Genetics with intentions of showing the barrow at the Montgomery County Fair and the gilt at the state fair and FFA District Expo. Every morning, I would wake up before school, mix feed, walk out to the shed and wake up my piglets after their night of sleep in a fluffy bed of straw. Seeing them made the early mornings worth it. That continued until they were of full feed, up until the fair when I showed my barrow. My gilt took an extra amount of time and dedication getting her to where she needed to be in time for the Missouri State Fair. Although she was not in the top spot at the State Fair, she showed well and we both had fun exhibiting. I always look forward to baby piglets in the spring and hope that even out of 4-H, I can continue to wake up early and see them sleeping in their straw.

Beef

Heather Stille, Bellflower Boosters

I started off my beef project this year in January when I got my steer and started to feed him twice a day. I named him Danny and in February he weighed 832 pounds at the Montgomery steer weigh-in. Around the time of weigh-in, I started to halter Danny regularly and start the socialization process. As the year progressed, I started to put in more time and by May was walking him regularly. By the beginning of June, I was walking Danny daily and feeding him about 28 pounds of beef finisher a day. In July, I started to work with Sid, a Red Angus bull calf from my family's herd. I showed and sold my steer at the Montgomery County fair. After the fair, I showed Danny and Sid at the FFA Northeast Expo in Mexico. I exhibited my bull calf in the Red Angus show at the state fair to finish out my project for this year.

Arts & Crafts

Carl Smith, Montgomery Progressors

This was my first year in arts and crafts. There were a lot of fun projects that I did at the Montgomery County Arts Council. I learned how to use watercolors and make sculptures out of putty. My favorite craft was making a hedgehog by folding pages in a book. I added designs to it to make it look like an RC car. I also enjoyed making sculptures out of the putty. I made a beautiful butterfly for my mom. All of the instructors at the Arts Council were great!

Hiking

Grayson Gerding, Montgomery Progressors

My name is Grayson Gerding and I am from the Montgomery Progressors 4-H Club. This is my third year of 4-H, and I was a Clover kid before that. I was the song and game leader for Montgomery Progressors club. Our club did some fun things this year, like a bonfire and swimming. We also helped out the community, by packing NRG Bags, Blessing Bags for the homeless, making cards for a nursing home, and shaking the tambourine for Montgomery County Cares. I was able to attend the 4-H Day Camp at Graham Cave State Park. I really enjoyed going on the hike and seeing a box turtle. This year my projects were: archery, smallbore .22 rifle, Outdoor I (hiking) and Breads 1. My favorite project this year was Breads 1.

In Hiking, I learned how to identify trees, animals and animal homes. I also learned to identify some wildflowers and poison ivy. I learned that moss grows more on the north side of a tree. I went hiking at some pretty cool places. My favorite place I hiked this year was War Eagle Cavern in Rogers, Ark. I was able to tour the cavern and then hike the grounds around it and Beaver Lake. At Mastodon State Park, I saw a very old tree and huge root system above the ground.

This 4-H year was great, but COVID was still ruining things. My shooting sports projects were not able to start until late, and some of our club meetings were on Zoom. I am looking forward to the new 4-H year and learning new skills.

Cake decorating

Baileigh Nichols, Bellflower Boosters

This is my cake decorating story. Sometime three weeks or more before the fair, I went to learn how to decorate my first ever 4-H cake I've ever made. I went to Cora Johnson's house to learn. She showed me how to make the dots with the special tip and how to even take it off the cake. Even when it got hard and boring, I just kept going. It gets tiring during the few hours, but I keep trying. I learned a lot from Cora. She taught me how to do so much. Now with her help, I can pass it on. Thank you for reading my story.

Beekeeping

Jonah Happe, Big Spring Busy Beavers

This year is the second year I have taken beekeeping. We have 11 hives on four different farms in our area. This spring started out really wet and I didn't think that we were going to get to harvest much honey. To our surprise, we harvested over 100 pounds from just two hives. Honey harvesting is my favorite part of having bees. I would test the moisture and uncap the frames before spinning out the honey.

Sportfishing

Lukas Oliver, Coon Creek Cronies

My name is Lukas Oliver and this was my first year of sportfishing. I caught many types of fish this year. A few of them are bass, crappie and bluegill. I learned that not all fish lure or bait and prefer different areas of lakes or ponds. Crappies, for example, like jigs and minnows best and are usually in spots of undercover like brush.

Wildlife

Matthew Oliver, Coon Creek Cronies

My name is Matthew Oliver and since I love animals, I wanted to go wildlife conservation this past year. I learned a lot about animal habitats. During spring rains, my brother and I found a lot of crawfish in the creek. Sometimes crawfish can be invasive if moved to a different body of water. It's best to keep them in their own habitat. Each animal has an important role in the food chain, but you also have to be careful or they will get your livestock.

Breads

Jace Ellis, Kountry Kids

My name is Jace Ellis and I have been a member of the Jonesburg Kountry Kids 4-H Club for eight years. This year, I took Breads for the first time for one of my projects. For the fair, I made French bread, a blue-gold on my banana bread, and a red on my zucchini bread. I really enjoyed this project. I also exhibited a loaf of my banana bread in the Home Economics division at the county fair and my bread received a rosette ribbon for best in class. I think the secret to really good banana bread is to use frozen bananas.

My mom's college roommate taught her to freeze too ripe bananas by putting them right in the freezer in their peels and those are the bananas I use in my bread. I do peel them though. This project taught me skills that I use later in life – like teaching me how to make things I enjoy eating. It was my first year taking it and I look forward to taking it again next year.

Gardening I

Jordan Bolte, Big Spring Busy Beavers

This year, I helped plant my grandma's garden and a garden at my house. I ran the tiller all by myself. We put soap around the edge of the garden to keep the deer away. It worked until the rain washed it away. I had potatoes in my garden, but they got eaten. It was fun to see my projects at the fair.



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My year in rabbits

Anna Johnson, Kountry Kids

Hi! My name is Anna Johnson and this is my third year in 4-H. My projects this year are archery, rabbitry, foods and sewing. Today, I will be telling you about rabbits. For this year in rabbits, I decided that my rabbits needed something to play with while I was not outside with them. I decided that I was going to make them some rabbit toys! I used my mom's phone to look at and get some ideas. I figured out that I was going to make one that no one knew about yet. And I decided on one that I found online with an extra part to it.

I made one that no one knew about, the braided rope toy. I took old towels and cut them into strips, tied them at the top and braided them all the way down! The rabbits love to chew on it!

The one I found online was one where you cut a toilet paper roll into four sections and rope them over one another and fill it with feed. I added four sections, but not all the same size and added another toilet paper roll, too! The rabbits love to pull the pieces apart and eat the feed! This was my year in rabbitry.

Learn as you go

Ahna Sinclair, Middletown Meddlers

Hi, my name is Ahna Sinclair. This is my eighth year in 4-H, and my projects this year are beef, horse and livestock judging. I am a member of the Middletown Meddlers 4-H club, and this has been a very enjoyable 4-H year.

For my livestock judging project, I am lucky enough to have had the opportunity to "learn as you go." My family raises Brangus cattle, so whenever we work or sort cattle, I try to learn from my mom and grandparents' knowledge, to become a better judge of cattle. There is a lot to learn; from foot and leg structure, to udder quality, and even hair shedding. Judging varies a little by breed, but the basics are still the same; look for cattle that can move well, while still providing good meat production, and maternal ability. Another important part of livestock judging is being able to judge weight, and evaluate cattle's growth and performance.

When we went to the National Junior Brangus Show this summer, I also had some other important livestock judging opportunities. Not only was I able to learn by watching the shows, and how the judges place and evaluate the cattle, I was also able to participate in the judging contest. This contest has several different classes, of both females and bulls, as well as having both individual and pen classes. This makes it a diverse learning opportunity, and the questions at the end encourage you to really pay attention to unique features and identification, as well as basic husbandry knowledge.

Overall, I have been fortunate to have had a wonderful year in my livestock judging project. I have been able to learn a lot about judging cattle, which will help me to improve my cattle operation, as well as help me to become a better cattleman.



Keane Ridgley of Kountry Kids works on his woodworking project.

Woodworking

Keane Ridgley, Kountry Kids

Hi, my name is Keane Ridgley. I am 10 years old, and this is my second year in 4-H and my second year in woodworking. I like woodworking because it's fun and I like to make cool projects out of wood. My projects this year were a livestock show sign in the shape of a hog and a roping dummy. I am excited to use the roping dummy to practice roping. It is so much fun. I am also looking forward to using my sign I made this year, next year when I show my market hog. My hog sign went to the state fair and the roping dummy got a red ribbon.

Furniture

Ava Engemann, Big Spring Busy Beavers

My name is Ava Engemann, and I am 17 years old as of January 1, 2021. This is my 10th year in 4-H and I participated in the projects Swine, Photography, Foods and more. I am a member of the Big Spring Busy Beavers 4-H club.

This year has been so fun; we got back into the groove and relearned social skills while finally getting time with our 4-H friends. The pandemic taught us things like staying occupied and trying new activities. I learned how to properly build many, many different pieces of furniture. I also learned how to properly hang large pieces of art or mount heavy pieces of furniture. The projects were not limited to the walls of my room, though. Later, I measured and calculated the proper amounts of lumber I would need to purchase to refinish my chicken coop. I gifted my young hens with roosts and nesting boxes and managed to become very handy with a screw and screw gun. It also gave us a chance to really appreciate the farm and agriculture life while continuing to spend time outdoors. Missing out on opportunities like meetings, Congress, and the county fair was tough, so it was important for me to make the most of it this year.

As we slowly came out of our caves, we moved from zoom to outdoor meetings and could finally talk to each other face to face. Although local activities started to take place, bigger events like Congress interviews still took place through virtual platforms. Virtual meetings came with many positives; your interview might get you out of class and you get to meet some really incredible people including someone from the Mizzou campus. I was honored to be accepted for the National Congress and I can not wait to go to Atlanta in November. It might be one of my last 4-H trips and I am sure it will be very memorable. As I grow into my last years as a 4-H'er, I have learned to pass the torch. I was vice president this year after being president for two years. I hope to be vice president for my last year and give assistance to the officers taking on high positions. I believe the best way to lead is by example and always reaching out a helping hand.

Out of all the things I have learned so far this year and the last, is to always be ready for change and to adapt in the best way possible. Learn from the past and make the best of every accomplishment and mistake. Grow as you get older and figure out hobbies you like and that fit your personality. If you can turn your hobbies into a side hustle, you are already one step ahead of the average American. As I have to remind myself, always look to the future but don't forget to live in the moment. 4-H has taught me to be well-rounded and I will take all of these morals with me for my next adventure. I hope to go into pediatric nursing to help younger kids stay healthy and give back to my community. Someday I might own my own small business in another country. All I know is I am excited for what comes next. Just like life, my 4-H story is a work in progress.

Flower

Bella Nichols, Bellflower Boosters

I pulled weeds first. Get a pot and plant it all. Then, I picked the names of my projects so I could figure out my project. Then, we transplanted flowers to the pot, but we did not water it that morning. We water after we transplant.



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Swine

Garrett Weekley, Bellflower Boosters

My name is Garrett Weekley and I am 14 years old. This is my 6th year in the Bellflower Boosters 4-H club. This year, I took Swine 3, Welding, Hunting and Outdoor Skills. I enjoy 4-H because I get to learn new things.

In my swine project this year, I helped my dad and my sister prepare the area where we would keep the hogs. When they are small, we keep them close to the house in a small enclosure. We had to build a small room and hang the heat lamp. We also got out the feeder and hooked up the water. We laid down shavings for bedding.

On March 13, we chose the hogs we wanted from the VanBooven trailer at the fairgrounds and weighed them in. I had two crossbred barrows this year. I chose not to name them this year, as I couldn't come up with anything I liked.

When the hogs got bigger and the weather wasn't so cold, we moved them to our concrete floor space. We had to move the feeder and get the water and sprayer ready as well. My sister and I continued to feed them and clean their pen and work with them up until fair time.

I showed one of my hogs at the Montgomery County Fair on July 21 and I received second in my weight class and scored sixth overall. I was really excited about this. I showed in showmanship and continue to get better. I sold my hog at the livestock auction and I added the profit to my savings account.

Through raising my hogs, I continue to learn that it is important and that it also takes a lot of time and hard work. While the money I make through the auction is not realistic, I will continue to raise hogs, so that my family can have something to eat and I can continue to learn about raising animals.

Sewing

Jillian Weekley, Bellflower Boosters

My name is Jillian Weekley and I am 12 years old. This is my fourth year in the Bellflower Boosters 4-H Club. This year, I took Sewing 3, Swine 2 and Cake Decorating I. I love being creative in 4-H and meeting new people.

For sewing this year, I chose to make a dress and learn how to do 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 nice dress that I can wear to church or special occasions. I chose a silky fabric made of 100 percent polyester. The pattern on the fabric looks like clouds. The pattern I picked out showed a band of contrasting fabric at the bottom and in the picture the dress was green and blue, so I didn't like how it looked. My leader showed me a solid blue that matched my cloud print, but I still wasn't sure I would like that on the bottom of my dress. I chose to buy the blue fabric, but wanted to wait to put it on.

Cutting and sewing silky fabric is tricky because it likes to slide around, especially when you are sewing on a curve. Last year when I did knits, I learned to go very slow, and that was great because I had to do it again this year! This dress was fully lined, so essentially I made two dresses and put them together at the shoulders, which was tricky to get it to match and lay flat. I used a serger to finish most of my seams, so they would lay flat, as the fabric was thin. The dress also had pockets that were in the seams on the front. This was a new way of putting in pockets, but it really wasn't too hard and I really like having them on the dress! I learned how to put in an invisible zipper this year and I was really nervous. It wasn't as hard as I was expecting and I really like how you can't see the zipper on the back of my dress. I finished my dress with the blue band that I was unsure of and I love how it looks. I did a blind hand by hemming to make sure it looked nice and put a hook and eye closure above the zipper in the back.

I participated in Judging and Achievement Day and placed first in the dressy category and will go to State Fashion Revue on October 9. I also got a blue and gold ribbon at the Montgomery County Fair and my dress got to be exhibited at the State Fair. I was able to see it there when I did a demonstration in the 4-H building on Aug. 16. It was cool to see other projects kids made and get ideas for next year!

I wear my dress to church and plan on wearing it to a wedding later in the fall. It is comfortable and I have even had people ask if I can make them one! I look forward to next year and a new challenge!

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 second year in 4-H and my second 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, we had a lot of rain and so my lamb got rain rot where his wool wouldn't stay dry and came off. We had to wash and dry them a lot and give them antibiotics and rub cream on them. It was a lot of work to make him better. I showed my sheep at the fair and did well and won showmanship for my age group.

Lambs

Ella Cobb, Kountry Kids

This past year brought a lot of challenges with my project. In June, my lambs got rain rot after a long week of lots of rain. Prior to this I had never heard of this bacterial infection that my lambs had gotten. Through the treatment process I learned a lot. The treatment process included rubbing an ointment over the infected area, giving them full feed minerals to help with their stress, giving them shots of vitamin B and penicillin, and an oral medicine to also help with their stress. I also had a very hard headed lamb this year so getting him fair ready and halter broke was a little harder than in my years past. I continued to work hard with my lamb and continued to learn throughout the rest of the year. I am looking forward to raising a lamb again next year and using the knowledge I have gained.

Rabbits

Kendra Stille, Kountry Kids

Hi, my name is Kendra Stille and this is my first year in 4-H and I did rabbits this year. The names of my rabbits are Marty and Lawson. I give my rabbits frozen water bottles on hot days so they can lean against the water bottles and cool off. I hold them and brush them. Brushing them makes their fur feel smooth. I got my rabbits from the Johnson family. They were really small when I got them. Now they have grown about three times the size. I go out there morning and night to check on them, feed them, water them and hold my rabbits.



Cohen Beattie of Big Spring Busy Beavers is checking bees.

Rabbits

Cora Johnson, Kountry Kids

This past year has made every aspect of our lives a little more interesting. That was definitely the case with our rabbit herd. I spent more time with these rabbits in my weeks of quarantine than I would have originally even had time for, and I am so incredibly grateful for it.

Rabbits had already been bred before the announcement of the MOCO Fair cancellation. So even though we didn't have a fair, we still had multiple litters of adorable fluff. In one of those litters, there was a runt who was struggling to get enough food because of the competition of her peers. Because I was out of school, I had enough time to pull the runt who was struggling to get enough food because of the competition of her peers. Because I was out of school, I had enough time to pull the runt out of the litter box and hand-feed her each morning and night. This small, wriggling ball of energy would sit calmly in my hand and paw for the tiny pellets I would feed. After a week, I decided to give her the namesake of Audrey, a close friend and companion of mine who had passed away two years prior.

Audrey was able to grow to be just as big and strong as her brothers and sisters, and is now the only doe in our herd. She birthed a litter of eight in May, and was a wonderful mother and made sure each kit was nurtured. She loves to be picked up and played with, and will never refuse a carrot treat.

In the pink ball that fit in my hand, I found my friend reborn. I found a little life worthy of being saved, and a dear pet who I will love for years to come. I thank 4-H for helping me to see the beauty in the tiny ball of fur, and all of the joy that she brought to my life.

Gardening

Carl Johnson, Kountry Kids

My name is Carl Johnson, I'm 8 years old, and this was my first year in 4-H. I'm a member of the Kountry Kids 4-H Club and my projects were gardening, archery and rabbits.

I was really excited about gardening, but didn't get to plant a garden this year because we moved into our new house. But I did get to plant container gardens. I planted chives, basil, yellow tomatoes, citronella, lavender and lots of flowers. While we were on vacation my tomato plant got eaten by hornworms. And a few weeks ago, I got stung by yellow jacket wasps while I was watering. I've learned a lot about taking care of plants this year!

I also gave my first demonstration this year. It was on how to transplant container plants and I gave it at my club and achievement day, where I got a blue-gold! Next year, I want to plant a garden and plant potatoes, corn and lettuce.

Steer

Blaine Nordwald, Kountry Kids

Hi! My name is Blaine Nordwald. I am 10 years old and this is my third year in 4-H. I am a member of the Jonesburg Kountry Kids 4-H Club. My projects this year are beef, woodworking and archery. This year, I showed and sold a steer for my second time. My steer is named Baxter and was born on my grandpa's farm. I took Baxter to the jackpot show at the Warren County Fair for practice. We got second place in our class. He did a very good job at walking and staying calm. I work with Baxter all the time and he gets washed at least once a week. I showed Baxter at the Montgomery County Fair and got reserve champion overall. I plan to show again next year and I am excited to show again!

Pom-pom wreath

Carmen Stille, Kountry Kids

When I started to make my pom-pom wreath, I knew it would take a long time to make it. I carefully picked the colors of yarn that I wanted. I picked pink, yellow and teal. I also used a straw wreath because hot glue melts foam. I found this project on Pinterest, and it looked like something fun to do. What was really nice about this project was that I could bring it to my grandma's house when my mom worked, sit down on the couch, and watch TV and make pom-poms at the same time. I ran out of yarn, so we had to go back to Michael's and get more! I had a ton of fun with this project, and am really excited for spring to come so I can hang up the wreath.

Breads

Jacob Roesner, Montgomery Progressors

This year, I learned to make breads such as biscuits, pizza, waffles, breads and muffins. We also learned how to measure stuff, crack eggs and mix things. Something I liked about it was being with my friends. Another was getting to eat the food. An additional reason is because I also get to play with some of my friends. Finally, a reason why I like going to bread is because I get to do fun stuff that I normally don't do at the house such as cooking, which I rarely do at home.

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Exploring 4-H

Harrison Vomund, Bellflower Boosters

My name is Harrison Vomund. I am a first-year member of the Bellflower Boosters 4-H club. This year, my projects include Exploring 4-H, Woodworking I and Swine I. It has been a good and busy year and I have learned a lot through my time at 4-H project meetings and exhibiting and showing at the Montgomery County Fair.

This year, I took Exploring 4-H so that I could see what types of projects I am interested in. At my project meetings with my mom I did cooking, built Legos and did some different crafts. I even spent some time in the garden and planting flowers, which I really liked!

I made three projects to exhibit at the country fair. My first project is a hanging wall shelf that I made using a craft kit. This is a small shelf that holds jewelry and my mom plans to hang it in her room. I changed the colors from what was instructed. I used spray paint and also painted with a brush, then strung the boards and beads together. My second project is a Halloween string art picture that says "BOO" with a spider web. This project required me to paint a board, nail in some tacks following a pattern, then string the string in a way that would make the picture look nice. My third project is some soap that looks like gemstones. I colored and melted soaps and made three different patterns. All three of my projects got blue ribbons and my wall shelf got a blue-gold and was also exhibited at the state fair.

I am happy I took this class because it helped me think about what projects I would like to take next year!

Woodworking

Jett Beattie, Big Spring Busy Beavers

My name is Jett Beattie and I am 8 years old. This is my first year in 4-H. I had fun in 4-H Clovers before this, but now I get to do big projects. This year, I got to build things out of wood in Woodworking I. I made a cover for our strawberry patch that had a wood frame box and a handle and we attached a net to it so the critters stayed out of the strawberries. I also made an end table for our patio. My favorite part of woodworking was using power tools and staining the wood. I am really glad that I had my dad and grandma as project leaders, because I knew nothing about woodworking when I started.

I also got to take care of rabbits this year. We have Californian and New Zealand rabbits. I named my rabbits Chocolate and Pudding. I am learning about breeding. This year, we lost a litter of rabbits and it was so sad but we learned a lot. I really enjoyed showing my rabbit at the fair.

My favorite project that I did this year was raising a bucket calf. We got my bull calf from a dairy farm in New Haven. I picked him up when I was one day old and I named him, "Chip." Chip is the best calf ever. I had to give him bottles every morning and night, teach him to eat creep feed and how to walk wearing a halter. My favorite part of having Chip was cuddling up with him and reading a book in the backyard. He really liked me reading to him.

Country cured ham

Levi Seifert, Big Spring Busy Beavers

This is a story about my 4-H project country cured ham to go with my 4-H project record paper. I ordered my ham from 5-H. They called and said it was in. I went to pick it up. I put salt cure on it and wrapped it with brown paper. My dad said that is how Grandpa Seifert did it when he cured ham. We hung it in the old shed and blocked the windows. When it was almost county fair time, we took it down. I washed the cured salt off and cut the cold. It smelled really good. When we trimmed the fat we ate some and it tasted great. When it was time to see what ribbon I got at the fair it was a surprise that I had the only ham there! I got a blue ribbon and Grand Champion and a black sign. It felt good. Tim Engemann bought my ham. I am glad that I did a country cured ham for my 4-H project.

Rabbits

Cohen Beattie, Big Spring Busy Beavers

My name is Cohen Beattie and I am 11 years old. This is my fourth year in 4-H. This year, I continued working with rabbits. I like rabbits because they are fun to work with and easy to handle. I got a bucket calf in April. Raising a calf was a lot of work, but the work was fun. They enjoyed their bottles every morning so much it made it not so hard to get out of bed early. It was really fun to watch them grow and improve in walking with their halter. I also took woodworking this year. I made a set of outdoor chairs and stained them. The first chair was really hard to make because my dad and I were designing them as we went, but the second chair was way easier, and more fun to build, because I knew what I was doing. I was also in Foods I this year, and I really like to cook. My favorite food item I made was homemade tootsie rolls. The first time I made them, Mom said they were not right because they looked like wet sand. I started over with a new recipe and this time I nailed it, just like the ones from the store, but so much softer and better. I also did beekeeping this year. I learned so much about jobs bees do, job beekeepers do to keep them healthy and happy, and I really liked working with bees. Watching new bees emerge from the frames in the hive was really cool. Bees are really hard workers. Last, I took up sportfishing this year. I love to fish. I used this project to learn about lures and what fish like which lures. We went fishing many times this year as a family and I got to fish for trout, bass, crappie, bluegill, sunfish and catfish.

Swine

Riley Schutt, Big Spring Busy Beavers

I got my pigs on a hog weigh in day. Then, I brought them home on our stock trailers. I had a girl and boy pig. I built them a pen with my dad at my dad's house. Every day, I drove on the mule to my papa's to feed, water and spray out their pen. We went to MFA during a weekend to get feed. My pigs grew really fast. Sometimes my sister would come help. A week before the fair, the girl pig died. I worked really hard to keep the boy pig alive. When I got to the fair, my pig was one of the heaviest. I got second place for rate of gain. I helped other exhibitors get their pigs into the arena with my dad because he is on the fair board and I like to help him at the fair. I can't wait for next year!

Rabbits

Olivia Heying, Big Spring Busy Beavers

I bought two does and one buck from a livestock sale. I had them for part of the winter. But then one day during the spring, it got in the 70s. They all died, so we went back to the livestock sale and got six little four-week old bunnies and raised them. But one day, we put them on our trampoline that has a net around it. Somehow, they got out. Four of them got killed. As for the two that were left over, I took them to the fair. The end.

Gun safety

Bryson Nichols, Bellflower Boosters

One of the main things in order to have good gun safety is to have your gun pointed in a safe direction at all times. The second is making sure your firearm is on safe because if it isn't on safe and you were to drop it, it could go off and possibly hurt or even kill an individual. Tip three is to always make sure you don't have one in the chamber if storing the firearm in a safe or case.

Outdoor cooking

Beth Bextermiller, Kountry Kids

I have been doing outdoor cooking for three years. In these three years, I have learned so much, not only have I learned to cook in Dutch ovens, but it has made me a better cook overall. I have made all kinds of dishes from stone soup to a Chinese sweet and sour chicken dish. Outdoor cooking is a great opportunity for young adults like me to learn future-like skills I may need in the future. I also competed in the 2021 Old Threshers Dutch Oven cooking competition with my dad.

Pumpkins

Faith Engemann, Big Spring Busy Beavers

Hello, my name is Faith Engemann. I am 11 years old and this is my third year in 4-H. I did many projects this year at our county fair, including showing my hog. I did foods, woodworking, hogs, horses and goats. I also have done many things this year with 4-H. I love taking care of my animals. I have my own egg business, and I sell eggs to weekly customers and I deliver them on Mondays and Thursdays. I also have my own business during the fall for pumpkins. I grow all sorts of them including gourds, mini pumpkins, medium pumpkins, large pumpkins and jack-o-lantern pumpkins. I sell them to people in St. Louis and I also take them to the Farmers Market in town.

I also take my goats to our friend's house for about a month and when they come back during the winter they will have babies. After the babies are about 2-4 months old I will sell them to people including 4-H'ers. For 4-H kids, I give them a discount. However, if they're not in 4-H, I will charge the normal price. This year I had eight baby goats. I usually sell all of them but I knew I had to keep a certain one. The day she was born I knew I had to keep her. She is so friendly. I love her. I ended up showing her at our country fair open show. I wanted to show her, but I didn't want to sell her. That day was a great learning experience for both of us. It was her first time, being hauled on a trailer, getting a bath, being on a halter and many more. We got third in our class. I was very excited. She was very good.

This year, we went to the State 4-H horse show in Sedalia. It was so much fun. I rode my horse and our friend's horse. My horse is named Pebbles, her show name is Macs Precious One, our friend's horse is named Grace and her show name is As You Wish. Pebbles is a pony of America and Grace is a black and white paint. I did many things, including speed, showmanship, horsemanship, western pleasure, English equation, English pleasure and many more. I won four state championships, two on Pebbles in speed/barrels and poles, and horsemanship and trail with Gracie.

I love 4-H! I have learned so much and I have met so many people. All of the hard work pays off. At the fair, I loved going to the pig barn and taking care of my hog. It was so relaxing. I went to the hog barn 5-10 times a day. Almost every time I went there I would rinse off my hog who was named Millie. I would make sure they would have water, sometimes give them food and wait until they were done so then I could rinse out their bowl and take it out so they wouldn't get it dirty and then rinse out their pen. Everytime, I would get to the hog barn, I would make sure their pen was clean. 4-H has impacted me in so many ways.

Foods

Colby Ellis, Kountry Kids

My name is Colby Ellis and this is my seventh year as a member of the Jonesburg Kountry Kids 4-H Club and also my fourth year in a foods project. Baking is one of my favorite pastimes. I like to cook! This year the best recipe I found was for Oreo Cheesecake Bites. I couldn't enter them in the fair because they would melt in the heat, but I made them a few times for my family and they loved them, too. They're made in a mini-muffin pan using mini Oreos in mini-muffin liners to form the sides and bottom of the cheesecake bites. I also made mini pecan tarts, chai spiral cookies (It was hard to learn to roll the two layers of cookie dough) and toffee chip bundt cake. The recipe for the icing on the toffee chip bundt cake was nasty, so I experimented and found a richer, thicker icing recipe that tasted delicious. I also made some adjustments to a recipe I made for the fair a few years ago so I would have an entry in the Home Economics Special Entry Division Salty-Caramel Exhibit. My caramel tassies turned out well, but I didn't win the \$25 prize. Overall, I had a great year in foods.

Goat

Thomas Happe, Big Spring Busy Beavers

This is my third year in the Market Goat project. With us not having a fair last year I was able to keep my goat to use him to breed my females. They started having babies right after Christmas last year. This was our first time to have baby goats in December/January. It was a great first experience. That was a lot of work. I was able to keep two for the fair and sell a few to others. I am excited to have more babies for the fair next year!

