



# YOAKUM COUNTY 4-H NEWSLETTER

May 2026 Highlights – Celebrating Youth Achievement & Leadership

## FROM THE AGENT'S DESK

As we wrap up another busy and exciting month, we are proud to celebrate the accomplishments of our Yoakum County 4-H members. May was filled with opportunities for learning, leadership, and community involvement. Our members represented Yoakum County well at the Livestock Judging and Entomology contests, showcasing their hard work and dedication. We are especially proud of Zach Marion for earning 10th Place in the Sheep & Goat Division at Livestock Judging. This month also provided a wonderful opportunity to share agriculture with local youth through Farm Animals in the Classroom in partnership with Plains ISD. We extend our sincere appreciation to Judge Thomason and Shyloh Guetersloh for helping make this educational event a success. Finally, we congratulate Nate Escoto on his graduation and thank him for his years of involvement in Yoakum County 4-H. We wish him the very best as he begins this exciting new chapter. Thank you to our members, families, volunteers, and supporters for continuing to make Yoakum County 4-H a place where youth learn, lead, and succeed.

### BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

**Emma Hagee**

May 23rd

Wishing you a wonderful year ahead!



# YOAKUM COUNTY 4-H MEMBERS COMPETE IN LIVESTOCK JUDGING

Yoakum County 4-H members showcased their livestock evaluation skills at the Livestock Judging Contest held on May 1st. Participants spent countless hours preparing by learning to evaluate livestock based on structural correctness, muscle, balance, and overall performance traits. Livestock judging helps youth develop critical thinking, decision-making, communication, and leadership skills that will benefit them both in and out of the show ring. We are especially proud of Zach Marion for his outstanding performance, earning 10th Place in the Sheep & Goat Division. Zach's accomplishment reflects his hard work, dedication, and commitment to excellence. Congratulations to all of our 4-H members who represented Yoakum County with pride and professionalism.



✓ Critical Thinking Skills

✓ Teamwork & Confidence

✓ Zach Marion – 10th Place!



# LEARNING THROUGH ENTOMOLOGY

Yoakum County 4-H members participated in the Entomology Contest on May 2nd, where they demonstrated their knowledge of insects and their importance to agriculture, the environment, and everyday life. Contest participants worked hard to identify various insect species, understand their life cycles, and learn about their roles as pests, pollinators, and beneficial insects. Through this competition, members strengthened their observation, problem-solving, and critical-thinking skills while gaining a deeper appreciation for the world of entomology. We are proud of all of our 4-H members for their dedication, hard work, and excellent representation of Yoakum County at the contest.



### ✓ Insect identification skills.

Members explored insect habitats, life cycles, and their critical roles in pollination, decomposition, and food production – connecting classroom science to real-world agriculture.

### ✓ Scientific observation focus.

### ✓ Agriculture & ecology learning.

**YOAKUM COUNTY 4-H**  
**ENTOMOLOGY**  
*Contest*  
**MAY 2, 2026**

Our 4-H members showcased their knowledge of insects, identification skills, and the important role insects play in agriculture and the environment. Members worked hard studying insect anatomy, life cycles, habitats, and classification.

We are proud of all of our members for representing Yoakum County so well!

*Learning today...  
 Leading tomorrow!*



# SENIOR SPOTLIGHT – NATE ESCOTO

Nate Escoto is a shining example of everything 4-H stands for. Throughout his years in the program, Nate has demonstrated outstanding leadership, responsibility, and a deep dedication to his community. From competing in contests to mentoring younger members, Nate has left a lasting mark on Yoakum County 4-H. His hard work and commitment to excellence have inspired fellow members and leaders alike.



## Congratulations, Nate! Class of 2026

Nate plans to continue his education and carry the values of 4-H — head, heart, hands, and health — into his future career and community involvement.

### "Once a 4-H'er, Always a 4-H'er."

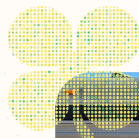
Nate's leadership and community service have been an inspiration to all Yoakum County 4-H members and volunteers throughout his years in the program.





# FARM ANIMALS IN THE CLASSROOM

On May 13th, Yoakum County Extension partnered with Plains ISD to host Farm Animals in the Classroom, providing students with a hands-on opportunity to learn about agriculture and the animals that play an important role in our daily lives. Students were able to interact firsthand with a variety of farm animals while learning about animal care, agriculture, and where food and fiber products originate. This engaging educational experience helped connect classroom learning with real-world agriculture and encouraged curiosity about the farming and ranching industries that are vital to our community. A special thank you goes to Judge Thomason and Shyloh Guetersloh for volunteering their time and assisting with this event. Their support helped make the day both educational and memorable for the students.



✔ Students learned about animal care and responsibility.

✔ Agriculture connects us to our food and fiber origins.

✔ Hands-on learning makes agriculture come alive for kids!

