

**DATE:** December 11, 2025 DRAFT!! This is not the final Letter  
**MEMO TO:** All South Plains District 2 County Extension Agents  
**SUBJECT:** **2026 District 2 4-H Record Book Judging and Participate Guide**  
**FROM:** Cari Snider  
District 2 Specialist  
4-H & Youth Development  
Felice Acker  
Castro County CEA-FCH  
Record Book Committee Chair

**CONTEST DATE:** Thursday, July 09, 2026  
**CONTEST LOCATION:** District Extension Office, 1102 E. Drew St. Lubbock  
**CONTEST BEGINS:** 9:00 a.m.  
**4-H CONNECT OPENS:**  
➤ Early Registration June 15 – June 30, 2026  
➤ Late Registration Not Available  
**ENTRY FEE:** \$15  
**CONTACT:** Felice Acker, (806) 683-8111



ALL ENTRIES MUST REGISTER THROUGH 4-H ONLINE by June 30, 2026.

RECORD BOOKS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY 3:00 P.M. Tuesday, JULY 7.  
YOU MAY BRING THEM TO THE DISTRICT OFFICE OR MAIL THEM.  
NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED!

**NEW Formatting for the 2025-2026 Recordbook Year!!!! Please review this letter**  
**PLEASE ALSO NOTE THE AVAILABLE CATEGORIES FOR THE 2025-2026 4-H YEAR; CATEGORIES MAY BE VIEWED**  
**ON THE STATE 4-H WEBSITE AT:**  
<https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/recordbooks/>

To better promote the consistency of recordbooks at the County and District Levels, our District has chosen to have Juniors and Intermediates complete the same report as required for Seniors. Seniors will use the Texas 4-H Recordbook Report form WORD/PDF versions found on the State 4-H Website at <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/recordbooks/>; Juniors and Intermediates should use the version found on the District 2 4-H Website, which has been modified to reflect the same information that seniors are using.

**A \$15 entry fee per Record Book will be charged.** This includes a \$ 1-per-book contribution to 4-H EXCELL Fund.

**1. Eligibility**

- a. To participate in the District 2 Record book judging, a participant must place first at his or her county level and/or be certified by his or her county Extension agent.
- b. Only one entry per age level and category per county may advance to the district level.

**AGE REQUIREMENTS** – based on 2025-2026 4-H year effective as of 09/01/2025

- **Junior** – 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade (minimum age 8 in addition to being in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade)
- **Intermediate** – 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- **Senior** – 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade (maximum age 18 as of August 31, unless considered special education)

**PREVIOUS SENIOR 4-H STATE RECORD BOOK WINNERS**

- Senior 4-H'ers who have won first place at the Texas 4-H Recordbook Judging competition MAY submit a record book in future years in the same category in which they earned first place, or in another category for the competition.
- State record book winners will earn the opportunity to attend the Texas 4-H Leadership Conference, which is held during Thanksgiving break. Cost of the trip to the 4-H'er is typically between \$1,750-\$2,000.
- District 2 4-H'ers may also be eligible for support from the District 2 4-H EXCELL Fund.

## 2. RECORD BOOK COVER

All types of covers or binders are accepted. Official 4-H Record Book covers can be ordered from National 4-H Supply if desired. Some County Extension Offices may have these covers available for purchase or may place a county order. Be sure to check with your County Extension Office.

## 3. Record Book Categories (25)

Information about the categories can be found at the State 4-H Website.

**PLEASE note new category Open/self-directed!**

**Also, note and see State guidelines for more details: LIVESTOCK JUDGING Project has been reclassified as only a contest and is NO LONGER considered a project as of 09/01/2024!**

State Guidelines provide more details on how to classify these project experiences.

Beef	Poultry
Citizenship, Civic Education & Community Service	Public Speaking
Dog Care and Training	Open/Self-Directed <b>NEW</b>
Consumer Education	Rabbit
Entomology	Range Science and Agronomy
Fashion & Interior Design	Science, Engineering, Technology and Math
Food & Nutrition	Sheep
Gardening & Horticulture	Shooting Sports
Goat	Swine
Health and Personal Safety	Visual & Performance Arts
Horse	Veterinary Science
Leadership	
Natural Resources	
Photography	

## 4. What's in a 4-H Record book for 2025-2026?

**NEW FORMAT for 2025-2026 YEAR!! PLEASE REVIEW ALL GUIDELINES!**

**District 2 has made some modifications for Junior/Intermediate Age groups that differ from state guidelines! Senior Age books will comply with state guidelines.**

The recordbook will consist of 4 parts for all age divisions:

- Personal Information Page
- Narratives—New this year! There is NOT a 4-H Story. There are three possible narratives
- Photo Portfolio—this is a separate photo page, will be photos of the **CURRENT** year only!
- Report Forms—These are found at the Texas 4-H Recordbook page. All ages will complete the same report form.
  - <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/recordbooks/>

The next page is a chart that highlights key points to remember when putting together your record book; however, it is not a complete guide. Contact your county AgriLife Extension office for more information, or you may refer to the Family Record Book Guide on the Texas 4-H Website.

**NEW Format for 2025-2026 Year!** This is the Format District 2 will follow!! **This chart is a Summary** of what will be included in your Recordbook. See the Texas 4-H Family Guide and the rest of the letter for more details!

District 2 Guidelines	Juniors Grades 3-5 (Do not include Clover Kids)	Intermediate Grades 6-8	Senior Grades 9-12
<b>Personal Information Page</b>	Include	Include	Include
<b>Narratives &amp; Photo Portfolio</b>	Must be 12-point font Times Roman, Arial, or Calibri Fonts 1 PAGE single-spaced Text and photos are Separate! Do Not Incorporate together on the same page. <b>DO NOT REMOVE THE HEADERS/INSTRUCTIONS ON THE TOP OF PAGES</b>		
About Me Narrative (narrative #1)	All Ages: Max 1 page, 12-point font, single-spaced (if needed)		
Photo Portfolio	All Ages: Max 1 page 4 photos minimum-- Current year! Be creative! This is <b>SEPARATE</b> from your About Me Narrative!! It is its own page!		
<b>4-H Report Forms Section</b>	10-point font minimum! Forms found on D2 or the Texas 4-H recordbook page! <b>DO NOT REMOVE THE HEADERS/INSTRUCTIONS on the TOP OF PAGES</b> Covers ALL YEARS in 4-H *Do not include CLOVER YEARS (Kinder-2 <sup>nd</sup> grade)		
Section I – 4-H Project Experiences	Entire 4-H Career This covers all project learning experiences! Encouraged to have 3-4 projects, maybe more or less. 6 pages Max		
Section II – 4-H Leadership	Entire 4-H Career 25 entries max (note Juniors and intermediates may not reach this number) 3 pages Max		
Section III – 4-H Community Service	Entire 4-H Career 25 entries max (note Juniors and intermediates may not reach this number) 3 pages Max		
Section IV – Recognition & Award	Entire 4-H Career 25 entries max (note Juniors and intermediates may not reach this number) 3 pages Max		
Section V – Non-4-H Activities	Up to 3 years 1 page Max		
Section VI – College & Career Exploration	Entire 4-H Career 15 entries max (note Juniors and intermediates may not reach this number) 2 pages Max		
<b>Additional Narratives</b>	For District 2: All ages will complete only the College/Career Narrative. Use the space to expand and share what you have done in your 4-H career in these areas: <b>DO NOT REMOVE THE HEADERS/INSTRUCTIONS ON THE TOP OF PAGES</b>		
College & Career Exploration Narrative	Max: 1 page, minimum 12-point font, can double-space if needed. Use to expand on Section VI of forms.		Max: 1 page 12-point font, single spaced
Essay Prompt Narrative <b>SENIORS ONLY</b> (Changes Annually) Make sure to use the 2025-2026 prompt	Not Applicable! Juniors will not complete	Not Applicable Intermediates will not complete	Max: 1 page 12-point font, single spaced

All forms can be found in Word format at <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/recordbooks/>  
Additional Details on the sections:

### A. Personal Information Page 2025-2026

This is the first page of your record book. All ages must include

### B. **NEW Narratives:** Narratives replace the previous 4-H Story and Photo Portfolio

- Use standard 12 point font in Times New Roman, Calibri, or Arial.
- Write in the first person (I) to share your story and experiences.
- Focus on learning experiences, goals, challenges, and impacts
- 1 page max

There are three narratives in the 4-H Recordbook

1. About Me Narrative
  - Your personal story of who you are and your 4-H journey.
  - Highlight your development, service, goals, and what has shaped you!
  - 1 page, single-spaced
  - Do NOT include photos in your About Me Narrative. See 4-H year in the Photos Page!
2. College & Career Narrative
  - Use this prompt: As of Today, what career would you choose, and how have your 4-H projects helped shape and support that goal?
  - Senior Age group 1 page single-spaced.
  - Junior and Intermediate—use this page to expand or share on what you did in section VI of the chart and what goal you have for a future career. Can double-space if needed.
3. Essay Narrative: **SENIOR ONLY!** Prompt will change annually. For 2025-2026 use prompt:
  - *“Describe a challenge you faced and how you overcame it, or explain a new leadership role you took on. What did you learn about yourself, and how has this experience shaped your goals, values, or approach to life”*
  - Provide specific examples and lessons.

### **New** My 4-H Year in Photos

- This will follow your About Me Narrative.
- One page only of photos that is the current 4-H year!
- Minimum of 4 photos for all ages.
- Watch size and number of photos you want to still be able to see the action in your photo
- You can be creative with layout, captions, and how you tell your story in this format
- Do NOT include Photos in your About Me Narrative. This page is separate from it!

**C. Report Forms** - There are 6 sections of report forms. They can be found at the District 2 website or Texas 4-H Recordbook page <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/recordbooks/>

### **Section I- 4-H Project Experiences (max 6 pages)**

This Section includes, but is not limited to, such things as: the number of years in the project, items bought, items made and/or raised, places visited, profits/losses, and hours spent on the project.

- Include activities such as, but not limited to, workshops, contests, tours, research, computer learning programs, study of written material, interviews, etc.
- Learning activities may be completed in a project setting or through independent study. They may have been completed with other youth or community organizations as long as they connect back to the 4-H project. Report the learning that took place.
- **Effective September 1, 2024, Livestock Judging must be listed as a learning experience, NOT a Project!** List these experiences under Animal agriculture or under a specific livestock project. Horse Judging will continue to be under Horse Project as a learning experience; similarly, for Dairy Judging, Wool Judging, etc. Quiz Bowl activities should continue to be listed under the respective project for which the Quiz Bowl is held.
- Reference participation levels.
- Project experiences should LIST all projects in this section. THERE is not additional 4-H project section this year.
- Can cover your entire 4-H career not including Clover years!

- Learning experiences are those activities in which the 4-H'er has been a participant and not a teacher or instructor. Project-related leadership experiences should be reported as Volunteer Leadership in Section II.

**Section II- 4-H Leadership Experiences (Up to 25 entries and 3 pages, Entire 4-H Career)** List what you did to assist others. Also, general leadership should be included, such as Club Officer, 4-H County Council, or committees. Leadership is teaching or leading others. This is now in a chart format.

- Covers the entire 4-H Career. Prioritize and highlight the most impactful leadership experiences.
- Do NOT include leadership that occurred as part of performing a community service activity. Providing primary leadership to a community service effort should be reported in Section III.
- The following information is requested in the chart: year, leadership activity, leadership role – noted as either appointed, elected or volunteer from pull down menu, level of experience (Club - "Cl", County - "Co", District - "D", State - "S", National - "N" or International - "I"), and responsibilities/duties/accomplishments.
- The 4-H member should be able to demonstrate leadership in three different areas: promotion, volunteer, elected and appointed.
  - **Promotion:** how have you told someone about 4-H? This may include activities such as wearing a 4-H T-shirt to school, getting a picture related to 4-H in the paper, speaking on the radio about 4-H, or riding on a 4-H float during a parade.
  - **Volunteer:** how and what did you do to lead or teach others in 4-H? Examples of volunteer leadership include: led the Pledge of Allegiance at the 4-H meeting, demonstrated how to measure a tablespoon at a 4-H club meeting or organized a 4-H workshop or give a presentation on a specific topic.
  - **Elected/Appointed:** what did you do to improve 4-H? This includes leadership in volunteering to serve on a committee like the telephone, recreation, and/or refreshment committee, and in serving in any elected office such as president or reporter of the local club, county 4-H council and/or district/state council, and ambassador groups.

**Section III- Community Service (Up to 25 entries; Entire 4-H Career, 3 pages max)**

Community Service is the opportunity for 4-H members to go out into the community and help others or improve the quality of the town and the lives of those around them. Examples of community service include clean-ups, collections, repairs, construction, care packets, visitations, education, and donations.

- What did I do to help other people because of 4-H? The following information is requested in the chart: activity date, your role - noted as either **Y- yourself, M - member or P - primary** (leadership oriented task not duplicate this information under Section II/Leadership) from the down menu, service activity, importance/impact.
- Information for the codes is listed as follows:
  - "Y"- Yourself- this was a community service project that you did all by yourself with no help from other 4-H members or club;
  - "P"- Provided Primary Leadership- you were the organizer, you made all the arrangements, and recruited other 4-H members to help you;
  - "M"- Member of a Group- when another 4-H member called asking for help, you were there as a worker and helper.

NOTE: This section is for community service activities only and not for citizenship experiences (citizenship is a project; see the category description document for more details.)

**Section IV- 4-H Recognition and Awards (Up to 25 entries, 3 page, Entire 4-H Career).**

- This is also listed in a chart format. You are asked to provide the following information: year, level of award (club, county, district, etc.), award, and importance to you.
- You may list up to 25 entries.

**Section V- Non 4-H Activities (1 page maximum – encouraged for 3 years to keep current picture of outside 4-H activities).**

- List leadership, community service, awards and recognition from other activities such as school, church, and other community organizations.

**Section VI - College/Career Exploration (Up to 15 entries; 2 pages maximum, Entire 4-H Career).**

- This information is also included in a chart format. List 4-H and non-4-H activities that have helped you learn more about careers or the necessary education to enter this career. Examples of these

activities include interviews, tours, job shadowing, research, mentoring, work experience, skill development, coursework, etc.

- Chart information includes year, activity title, and “What did you learn or do?” may be listed.
5. **Scorecards** -District 2 will use the State scorecard for Seniors! District 2 has adapted the scoresheet to adjust Juniors/Intermediates' scores to total 100 and to exclude the Essay Narrative. Please refer to the District 2 website for this score sheet.

6. **PHOTOCOPYING RECORD BOOKS:**

4-H Record Books will not be copied at District or State levels for mass distribution to other 4-H members and leaders. The District Office may ask permission to copy books and use the information for educational or interpretation purposes. Each county is responsible for their own policy regarding photocopying 4-H Record Books at the local level.

7. **RESULTS:**

**PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE DISTRICT OFFICE ASKING FOR RESULTS.** Results will be sent via e-mail to counties after judging is completed!

8. **JUDGES:**

**ALL COUNTY AGENTS (EXCEPT IPM, Health, or Agronomy) ARE EXPECTED TO JUDGE** and are requested to complete an application. Those who have prior commitments on this date, must contact the DEA!

Volunteers are always needed. Please have them complete the Google application form to be considered as a judge. This application should provide the committee with a clearer understanding of the prospective judge's qualifications.

Applications are due Tuesday, June 30, 2026. Link to Google Form <https://forms.gle/JwVxiuj4C5HRW7E99>.

We require a minimum of 60 judges for Record Book Judging. Please help us recruit qualified judges.

With the changes this year, we will offer online trainings during the Spring, and then an in-person training will be held on Thursday, June 25, at the District Office from 10 –11:30 am; RSVP to Felice Acker ([fracker@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:fracker@ag.tamu.edu)) by June 23, with the number from your county that will be in attendance.

9. **RESOURCES:**

If you need any assistance with Record Book Training or resources, please contact Cari Snider via email at [cari.snider@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:cari.snider@ag.tamu.edu) or at (806) 746-6101; or refer to the District 2 4-H Website: <http://d24-H.tamu.edu> or the State 4-H Website at: <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/recordbooks/>.

**2025-2026 RECORD BOOK COMMITTEE:**

Felice Acker, Chair  
Julie Smith, Vice Chair  
Ronda Alexander  
Melode Watson  
Ronda White  
Amber Bozeman