



4-H ANR Project Coalition

Overview. Texas is unmatched in overall youth livestock project numbers, opportunities for exhibition and generous financial investment in youth showing livestock. County Extension Agents are responsible for meeting the diverse educational needs of clientele while providing leadership to his/her respective county youth ANR program. The 4-H ANR Project Coalition was developed to support the County Extension Agent by providing valuable feedback, resource development and education for the advancement of the county program. The previous is accomplished through the dedicated service of ANR project stakeholders on the ANR Project Coalition. With oversight from the County Extension Agent, the Coalition can assist in many program areas, thereby increasing the quality learning experience for the youth and their families. Based on the county situation, the County Extension Agents may be encouraged to customize the Coalition to reflect the educational needs of his/her clientele. The County Extension Agent should determine that the members' best interests are served by separating species. For example, some counties might have a 4-H ANR Project Coalition, which focuses on market and breeding animals that are exhibited at the county and major stock shows, while also having a separate task force or committee supporting the horse project.

Roles & Responsibilities of a 4-H ANR Project Coalition include:

- Plan, implement, and evaluate project trainings for all 4-H ANR project members and leaders as they participate in their respective livestock project experiences.
- Encourage leaders/parents/volunteers to assume leadership roles and participate in trainings including Mentor Volunteer Programs.
- Encourage youth to be involved in the Coalition and consider additional leadership roles such as Texas 4-H Ambassadors/Teen Leaders.
- Model the Quality Counts program to all youth, parents, leaders and the community in support of youth livestock projects.
- Identify resource needs - financial, material, volunteer - to support ANR projects.
- Develop a systematic approach to livestock project visits and procedures.
- Assist with livestock show entries - receipt entry money, possibly maintain livestock show bank account, follow Extension Best Financial Management Practices to ensure transparency of financial activity and attend stock show sign-up events to provide assistance to new families.
- Encourage dialogue between 4-H and FFA leaders to foster a positive approach for youth development through the utilization of ANR projects.
- Include Agriculture Science Teachers (ASTs) as members of the Coalition.
- Assist the agent in the development and direction of in-depth and outreach plans related to 4-H ANR.
- Be involved with state and county validations and represent 4-H interests to the county show board/association.

4-H ANR Project Toolkit Materials:

1. 1 pager - Overview, Roles, Responsibilities and Membership
2. 1 pager - Key Aspects of Planning
3. Sample Agendas for 3 meetings
4. Training PowerPoint
5. Resources Page



Coalition Development - Identification and Recruitment of Members

- Develop a list of current 4-H ANR Projects in the county program.
- Needs Assessment - one ANR Project Coalition or a separate ANR Project Task Force/Committee.
- With assistance from co-worker(s), RPL, DEA, and 4-H Specialist, identify potential members for invitation to the ANR Project Coalition. Ensure that potential members will provide a positive influence on both the Coalition and the total 4-H program. Characteristics of potential coalition members include:
 - ANR project experience (both youth and adult)
 - representation from the community at- large
 - not required to directly be involved with ANR projects
 - screened volunteer



Key Aspects of Planning with the 4-H ANR Project Coalition

1. Outline their Purpose - Refer to the outline of *Key Aspects of a 4-H ANR Project Coalition* and overview the ones you feel are important for your county with the group.

3. Roles and Responsibilities - Clearly state what the expectations are for the coalition. What you, as the CEA, would like to see the coalition accomplish. What they may be asked to assist with - project visits, stock show entries, financial accounting, identifying project meetings/trainings/activities, teaching, MENTOR volunteer training, validations, marketing the 4-H ANR Program to community groups, etc. Reiterate that while the project is important, positive youth development is our primary focus.

4. Expectations/Discussion - Allow everyone an opportunity to state their expectations for the group, ANR project wants/needs, what their primary interest entails. Keep the group discussing positive aspects and try not to dwell on any previous problems.

5. Develop a Calendar/Timeline - Have the group to identify major activities and events for each month and record these. This will be used as your county ANR projects schedule.

6. Plan an Activity - Move forward with at least one major activity to get the group involved in a successful event. Be the catalyst but let them take ownership.

7. Set Next Meeting Date – Depending upon the activity selected set the next date as soon as possible to build on the enthusiasm. At the next meeting, determine a regular schedule for meetings.