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South Plains 4-H'ers Receive Gold Star Awards

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LUBBOCK – Thirty-five South Plains 4-H'ers crossed the stage Nov. 24 to accept their Gold Stars during Texas Cooperative Extension's 46th annual South Plains 4-H banquet and recognition ceremony. The event was held at Texas Tech University's United Spirit Arena.

Receiving the Gold Star award is the crowning achievement of a 4-H career, according to Pam Foster, Texas Cooperative Extension regional 4-H program director.

4-H is the youth development program of Texas Cooperative Extension, part of The Texas A&M University System. A complete overview of Texas 4-H is available on the Internet at this website: <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu>.

The Gold Star Award is the highest 4-H honor presented at the county level. To qualify, a 4-H'er must be at least 15 years of age and have completed three years of club work – including full participation in club activities and completion of a record book that documents their activities.

“The award is intended to encourage winners to higher achievement, and to encourage other young people to participate in out county 4-H programs,” said Brad Davis, regional Extension 4-H specialist based at Lubbock.

Regional co-sponsors of this year's recognition banquet included Bailey County Electric Cooperative Association; Big Country Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Deaf Smith Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Lamb County Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Lea County Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Lighthouse Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Lyntegar Electric Cooperative, Inc.; South Plains Electric Cooperative, Inc.; and Swisher Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Jett Major, Extension district director for agriculture, and Davis presented the 2003 awards.

Katie Yates, representing Texas Senator Robert Duncan's Lubbock office, also presented each winner with a certificate from Senator Duncan. In addition, Jane Kiser, local representative of United States Senator John Cornyn, presented each 4-H'er with a letter from Senator Cornyn.

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This year's 4-H Gold Star winners are: **Bailey County**, Brett Bamert and Cami Jo Vandiver; **Borden County**, Brandi Hudson; **Castro County**, Michael Horn; **Cochran County**, Jordan Kidd and David Sears; **Crosby County**, Tawny McCauley and Whitney McNeely; **Dawson County**, Brittini Drennan; **Floyd County**, Chance Crossland and Kayla Kelley; **Gaines County**, Sarah Wright; **Hale County**, Kyle Reese and Brant Wall; **Hockley County**, Daniel Albus, Cody Preston and Whitney Wilson; **Lamb County**, Kim Peters, Brooke Winters and Clayton Yantis; **Lubbock County**, Brandy Bessent, Caitie Dalton, Lynsey Nicholson, Ansen Pond and Janet Womack; **Lynn County**, Brady Askew and Justin Smith; **Scurry County**, Shea Allen; **Swisher County**, Amanda Cruse, John Mark Gibson, Tyrel Lashmet and Tyler Thompson; **Terry County**, Jason Richards; and **Yoakum County**, T. J. Kitchens and Joel Horn.