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## **Statewide 4-H Master Goat Volunteer Training is Aug. 15-17**

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WEATHERFORD – 4-H leaders statewide have an opportunity to broaden their skills and learn more about goats at an August 15-17 master goat volunteer training, courtesy of Texas Cooperative Extension.

4-H is the youth development and leadership component of the Texas Cooperative Extension, part of the Texas A&M University System's Agriculture Program.

The training is designed to update volunteers with the latest advanced technical methods and subject matter knowledge pertinent to goats and goat projects.

“These volunteers will in turn teach 4-H goat project members and other volunteers in their home county. In doing so, they support 4-H members and provide learning opportunities for clubs, 4-Hers, parents and other volunteers,” said Galen Chandler, Texas Cooperative Extension district agriculture director for the Rolling Plains.

The first day of the training will cover topics such as: the value of 4-H projects; master volunteers; 4-H goat projects; and how to host effective club meetings and activities.

The second day will feature topics such as: facilities and environment; project visitation checklists; sheep and goat method demonstrations; record keeping and record books; overview of the goat industry; scholarships and other opportunities; as well as the internet and other curriculum resources.

The third day of training will focus on goat-specific topics, such as: basic genetics; selection for breeding; feeding and nutrition; basic health considerations; carcass evaluation and meat grading; and preparing for shows and showmanship.

This statewide training is open to any 4-H volunteer/leader in Texas, but each participant must be approved by their local county Extension agent through several agreement forms. Participation is limited to 60 persons, Chandler noted.

Participation costs \$100 per person before July 25<sup>th</sup>, and \$125 per person thereafter, according to Kalico Karr, Extension 4-H and youth specialist for the Rolling Plains. The registration fee includes course materials, presenter costs, four meals and breaks – but not lodging. Checks for registration should be payable to: District 3 4-H Council Fund; at PO Box 2159, Vernon, TX 76385.

The headquarters hotel for this event is the La Quinta inn (817-594-4481).

For more information on this statewide training opportunity contact Chandler or Karr at (940) 552-9941; Kyle Miller, Clay County Extension agent, at (940) 538-5042; or your local county Extension office.

For more information on Texas 4-H, including its history and opportunities for volunteers, visit the Web site at <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu> .

