



September 21, 2026

RE: Recognition of Habersham County 4-H Program and Participants

Fellow Commissioners,

Habersham County 4-H helps students in fourth through twelfth grades learn by doing. Through hands-on experiences in agriculture, science, civic engagement, leadership, health and wellness, community service, and the arts, these young people discover their interests, develop valuable skills, travel to new places, and build relationships with others from across our county and throughout Georgia.

Over the past year, Habersham County 4-H members earned top honors in forestry, Cotton Boll and Consumer Judging, poultry judging, and wildlife judging. Our Livestock Show Team also represented Habersham County at shows across the state, demonstrating tremendous dedication to their animals and to the 4-H program. Stella Crump earned first place in her age group at the state level in both record bookkeeping and the Dress-A-Cow Contest. Emmalee Turgeon, Grace Stewart, and Anna Ward were selected to advance to the state Pantry Pride competition in Perry.

At the 83rd Georgia 4-H State Congress in Atlanta, three Habersham County students earned the prestigious title of Master 4-H'er—the highest honor available in Georgia 4-H. Luke Nunnally earned Master Status in Wildlife, Emmalee Turgeon in Food Fare, and Tyner Wood in Public Speaking. Each of these students placed among the top five in the state in their respective project area.

Luke Nunnally also achieved Master Status through the Georgia 4-H Key Award Project. To earn this distinction, a student must accumulate 1,450 points throughout his or her 4-H career. Because most eligible activities are worth only approximately three points each, this accomplishment represents years of extraordinary participation, perseverance, and service. Several additional Habersham County students reached lower point tiers this year and are continuing to work toward this distinguished honor.

Grace Stewart was selected as a Leadership in Action finalist and competed at State Congress for her work developing a youth Sunday school program. During the past year, Grace created lesson plans, cultivated a welcoming environment, and successfully increased student participation.

Luke Nunnally, Grace Stewart, and Tyner Wood also completed a year of service through the Georgia 4-H Ambassador Program. Luke served as a Wildlife Ambassador, while Grace and Tyner served as Health and Wellness Ambassadors. In these roles, they organized educational classes and community service projects promoting their respective focus areas. Luke is now serving as a 2026–2027 Ag Technology Ambassador, and Grace is continuing her work as a Health and Wellness Ambassador.

Habersham County 4-H also returned to the Georgia Land Judging competition for the first time in many years. At the state event held in Watkinsville in August, the senior team of Buck Manglitz, Holly Samsel, Grace Stewart, and Tyner Wood earned third place statewide. We also recognize Program Assistant Sydney Jackson for coaching and preparing the team for this achievement.

Throughout the year, students met with legislators and farmers, attended agricultural technology training at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, and participated in leadership events such as Junior Conference, Fall Forum, and District Project Achievement. Teen leaders conducted Cloverbuds classes for children in kindergarten

through third grade, and members prepared art bags for senior citizens as part of their commitment to community service.

Participants explored the visual and performing arts, including staging a complete play in only 48 hours. They also enjoyed outdoor activities such as hiking, fishing, studying insects, and attending some of the six 4-H summer camps offered throughout Georgia.

We are equally proud of the leadership Habersham County students have provided beyond our county. Holly Samsel completed her term as President, Vayda Sanders concluded her service as Junior Representative for the 40 counties of the Northeast District, and Tyner Wood served as the Northeast District Senior Representative during the 2025–2026 year.

Leading Habersham County 4-H during the 2026–2027 year are County Council President Tyner Wood, Vice President Grace Stewart, Recorder Emmalee Turgeon, Senior Representative Holly Samsel, Junior Representative Wyatt Albertson, and Officer at Large Eli Samsel.

These accomplishments reflect much more than awards and competition results. They represent countless hours of study, practice, responsibility, service, teamwork, and personal growth. Through their hard work, these students have represented Habersham County with excellence across our community and throughout the State of Georgia. On behalf of the Habersham County Board of Commissioners, I congratulate each of our 4-H members, their families, their leaders, volunteers, and the Extension staff who encourage and support them. We are extremely proud of all that you have accomplished, and we look forward to seeing where your talents, leadership, and commitment to service will take you next.

Sincerely,

Chairman Bruce Harkness
Habersham County Board of Commissioners
130 Jacob's Way, Suite 301
Clarkesville, GA 30523