Dear Texas 4-H Families:

Thank you for being an integral part of the largest youth development program in Texas, and the largest 4-H Program in the world. Texas is proud to boast the largest 4-H membership enrollment, total 4-H participation, and the largest 4-H volunteer base in the United States.

In saying that, we are also compelled to tell you that this is indeed a challenging economic time for everyone. The Texas AgriLife Extension Service and 4-H are no different; however, we remain committed to ensuring a strong 4-H and Youth Development Program for our families.

To maintain the level of programming and opportunities in the Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program, an annual participant fee is necessary for each 4-H member starting with the 2011-2012 4-H year on September 1, 2011. This participant fee of $25, or $20 if enrolled from September 1st to October 31st, will hopefully ensure that the Texas AgriLife Extension Service can continue to deliver the highest quality 4-H program in the world. A recent national research study shows:

- Members reporting better grades, higher level of academic competence, and an elevated engagement at school.
- Two times as many members likely to plan to go to college than non-members.
- Members that reveal significantly lower drug, alcohol and cigarette use than their peers.
- Members that are three times more likely to actively contribute to their communities when compared with youth that do not participate in 4-H.

Quite simply, we are convinced that this participation fee is an investment in the youth of Texas. The Texas AgriLife Extension Service is committed to the youth of Texas and it is critically important that each 4-H family knows we are dedicated to continuing to provide the best program worldwide. As we all go through a transition period, we ask each of you to partner with us in creating a positive environment for all our 4-H members.

Thanks for all you do and thanks for MAKING THE BEST BETTER!

The Texas AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program

We teach life skills
We instill values
We build leaders

WE ARE TEXAS 4-H!