

# SPOTLIGHT

Texas is made up of 254 counties, each with a team of locally elected and appointed county officials serving their community. Polk County's elected offices include a County Judge and four Road & Bridge Commissioners that make up the Commissioners Court, the County Court at Law Judge, four Justices of the Peace, four Constables, a County Clerk, District Clerk, District Attorney, Treasurer, Tax Assessor-Collector and Sheriff.

There is no hierarchy in county government, so the only boss of these elected officials is ***You, the People***.

There are two District Court systems that serve Polk County, the 258th and the 411th Courts, which are responsible for appointing our County Auditor. The County Judge appoints the Emergency Management Coordinator, and all other officials are appointed by the Commissioners Court to run various county departments. These include Aging Services Director, Environmental Enforcement Officer, Fire Marshal, Grant & Contract Coordinator, Human Resources Manager, IT & Systems Administrator, Maintenance Superintendent, Museum Curator, Permits/Inspections Supervisor, Social Services Director and Veterans Services Officer. Learn more about your local offices by reading this latest installment of

## ***Spotlight on Polk County:***

### *AgriLife Extension Office*

602 E. Church St., Ste. 127 Livingston, TX 77351

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# Polk County

## **SPOTLIGHT** ON POLK COUNTY: *Matthew March, Alyssa Kimbrough, & Deborah Alvarenga* County Extension Agents

*The Polk County AgriLife Extension Service office is a collaborative effort supported by Polk County Commissioners Court and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. The Polk County office works daily to make Texas better by providing innovative solutions at the intersection of agriculture, natural resources, youth, and health, thereby improving the well-being of individuals, families, businesses and communities through education and service. The office consists of an agriculture & natural resources agent, 4-H agent, and a health agent.*

*Agriculture and natural resources agent works directly with producers, landowners, forest owners, and homeowners. Subjects may include deer food plots, weed ID in a hay field, fishpond water quality, land management plans for new landowners, or lawn and garden. Additionally, this agent develops programming for workshops and conferences including beef and forage, pond management, pesticide CEU, East Texas fruits and vegetables, East Texas natural resources field tours, forest pest seminars, and produce growers breakfast meetings. Recent demonstrations include deer food plots, prescribed fire, fly control, armyworm trapping, and yaupon control. This agent also supervises volunteer groups such as Texas Master Naturalists that help with projects and educate the public.*

*4-H agent manages the 4-H program and provides curriculum enrichment to non-4-H youth (hunter education, Ag in the classroom, school gardens). The Polk County 4-H youth livestock project supports youth that raise livestock and show them at the Trinity Neches Youth Livestock Show, Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, or State Fair of Texas. Other 4-H projects available to Polk County youth include archery, rifle shooting, horse show, horse judging, food show, fashion show, livestock judging, leadership camp, and forestry competition. The youth entrepreneurs program allows youth to develop life and job readiness skills with four topics: virtual photography, photography workshop, gourmet kids camp, and floral design workshop. Another important focus has been youth mental health.*

*Health agent splits time between Trinity and Polk Counties. The focus this last year in Polk County has been the senior citizen community garden at the extension office. A monthly lunch and learn at the senior citizen center provides healthy fresh produce to the seniors while also teaching them a simple recipe they can cook at their home. Additionally, this provides an opportunity to educate on the importance of a balanced diet, which includes vegetables. The health agent serves on the county health committee and is currently working with local school districts to implement programs such as school gardens, healthy school programs, and walk across Texas.*

*The website <https://polk.agrilife.org/> has links to a wealth of information, including events, resources, 4-H, and a social media channel with dozens of Polk County specific videos. The AgriLife Extension office is located at 602 E. Church St., Ste 127, Livingston, TX*

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