

2023 Tri-Club Honorees

Marsha was born and raised in Dayton, Tx, Marco was born in Houston and raised in Fresno, Tx. Marsha is an Assistant in the public finance group at Bracewell LLP. Marco does commercial HVAC at Entech. Marsha and Marco got married in 2021 and together have 3 children, Kelsi, Aaron & Aiden and 3 grandchildren. Kelsi and Aaron both graduated from Spring High School and are Spring Tri-Club Alumni.



Marsha became involved in Spring 4-H in 2004 when Kelsi was in 5th grade and started raising pigs. Marco came into the picture not soon after and became immersed in the kid's livestock raising. Marsha recalls "It was like the blind leading the blind when she raised her first pig. And to be honest, the thought was that raising an animal would be just another thing she wanted to try and it would be "one and done." But needless to say, Kelsi was completely hooked and, so of course, we were too." That included Aaron joining 4-H as soon as he could in 3rd grade and continuing through his senior year. Marsha states "Truer words could not be said that raising livestock is a family project, and so has supporting Tri-Club. We've left some blood, sweat and tears over the years but overall it was all worth it! Our family is so grateful for the support (especially in those early years) of so many other Spring 4-H volunteers (Jana, Jim, JT, Hershey's, Musgrove's, etc. etc.) and then of course the help of some amazing Spring FFA Ag Advisors! " Between Kelsi and Aaron, they raised every species, except turkeys.

Over the years, Marsha has volunteered her time to contribute to 10 different committees and has held all Tri-Club Officer positions, including President for 7 years and is currently the Treasurer. "When I was asked by Sheryl Gutowski to run for President, I thought she was nuts. There had not been a female President since Donna Lewis in 1987! But with Jana's encouragement, and the agreement that if I ran for President then she'd run for Vice President, and we've been doing this together ever since! We ended up having for many years an all-female officer team. I've been a part of some great officer teams over the years and I am very grateful for their support in trying to put on the best show possible," Marsha says. Marsha was apprehensive about taking on such a huge role, with her biggest worry being speaking in front of people. Although she still isn't a fan of public speaking, addressing large groups of people as the Tri-Club President has helped calm the uneasiness. Jana Gonzales first met Marsha at the 4-H barn when their kids raised pigs together in middle school. Their kids grew together through college, and Jana and Marsha continued to help grow the Spring Tri-Club Organization together. Jana states, "Marsha has had a huge impact on the organization, from creating the committee binders, getting us on social media, creating the website and the outreach flier; Marsha is a true leader." Marco has helped do so many things over the years. He has supported the show by lining up kids in the auction, setting up and tearing down the show, painting livestock pens, supporting the torch cutting contest with supplies and assistance, he just does whatever is needed anytime and anywhere." Marsha says Marco is her right hand in supporting Tri-Club and could not have done it without him.

Marsha truly enjoys volunteering her time. She has held many volunteer roles over the years including, Girl Scout leader, Spring FFA Booster Club officer, Spring 4-H committee chairs, volunteering with HLSR and helping with any organization Kelsi and Aaron were involved in. "It would honestly be difficult to not be involved with Tri-Club. This is where our friends are and working alongside them to help put the show together is very rewarding and adds a little extra purpose in our lives," Marsha states. "Of all of the activities/clubs/organizations they were involved in, Tri-Club was life changing for the entire family."

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Marsha and Marco are a part of the founding members of the Dirty Dozen Buyer's Group. The group started with a group of former Spring 4-H parents and alumni who got together in 2013 and formed the group to try to help deserving Tri-Club exhibitors. The group fundraises throughout the year and asks for donations from family, friends and the community. The Perez's are extremely proud to be a part of a group that has purchased projects and given add-ons of over \$116,000 so far, and they hope to continue to support the show for many more years.

When explaining the benefits of kids being involved in 4-H and FFA, Marco believes that the organizations teach the "three C's": confidence, character and commitment. He states, "It has definitely had an impact on our kids growing up. It taught them to be fully committed to their animals and projects. Their rooms might not have been cleaned, but their stalls were always clean and animals were always fed and watered." Marco believes that because of the opportunities and experiences their kids were provided through 4-H and FFA, they've developed skills and traits that will benefit them in the workplace and in life. Marsha has seen kids develop time management skills, dedication, commitment, endurance, compassion and perseverance. These are some of the reasons why they continue to help; in the hopes that other students will continue to gain these life skills through experiencing the work and preparation needed to show at the Spring Livestock Show.

Spring Livestock Show President, Courtney Musterman, remembers when she first started working at Spring High School Marsha was one of the first parents she met. Kelsi was an FFA officer at the time and Marsha was always so helpful to Courtney when she was learning the ropes. "Marsha was always there to provide support if needed. She has been a member of the Spring Livestock Show executive board for the past 13 years, even though both of her children have already graduated. I believe that shows a true commitment to this organization and the students who are a part of it. Marco has always been there to help out as well. From the countless volunteer hours he puts in throughout the year to helping our auction run smoothly, he is a tremendous help to me and to the show. Marsha and Marco are a very important part of the continued success of this organization, and I cannot think of more deserving individuals."

Marsha says her family has benefitted so much from being a part of Tri-Club. "We have made some life-long friends and had experiences that nothing else can compare to. I wish every Spring ISD exhibitor could have a good Ag experience - that would include true Advisor support, camaraderie with their fellow exhibitors, the support of their community on Auction day and to know that the members of Spring Tri-Club are always trying to make things better for every student. The thing about Tri-Club is there is always a need for volunteers. Please consider giving some of your time to support Spring ISD students."

Spring FFA Advisor Patrick Fuchs has been involved with the Spring Tri-Club Livestock Show for the past 10 years. When he thinks of all the time he has spent with Tri Club, there is one person that always comes to mind - Marsha Perez. "I first met Marsha as a FFA parent. Marsha is the type of parent that every ag teacher dreams of having. She was always willing to show up to not only support her child, but every single member of the Spring FFA. That "showing up" attitude follows her to her involvement with Spring Tri Club. Year after year, even with her kids being done showing, Marsha is still showing up for the kids in Spring ISD. Her passion for this organization is truly remarkable. I truly believe the kids within Spring ISD that participate in Tri Club are better off because of people like Marsha who show up for them when it matters."

We are honored to be chosen as the 2023 Spring Tri-Club Honorees. We know there are other deserving volunteers who have contributed, and/or continue to contribute, to Tri-Club so to be chosen is a true honor. We believe in the future of agriculture, and it's all about the kids!