

2024 Tri-Club Honoree

Jana Gonzales



Jana Gonzales was born and raised in the Aldine area of Houston and graduated from Aldine High School. She is currently the Vice President of Business & Community Development at InvesTex Credit Union, and will be celebrating her 35th anniversary with the credit union in August 2024. Jana has two sons, Justin and Dillon, who are both Spring High School Alumni. Jana also served on the Spring ISD Board of Trustees for 15 years.

Jana first became involved with Spring Tri-Club in 2002 when her son Dillon brought home a flier about Spring 4-H and wanted to join. They attended their first 4-H meeting and met the Spring 4-H leader at the time, Tracey Hershey. Dillon recalls his first year in 4-H, "I remember joining Spring-4-H in 4th grade and deciding to show rabbits my first year. My mom and I weren't really sure what we were doing my first year, but I am thankful that she allowed me to get involved in such a great program." Jana credits the rabbit leader, James Turner, for his help in getting Dillon started raising breeding rabbits. Jana states, "Of course, we had no clue what we were doing, but Dillon's first year was a huge success, winning Best of Show. At that point I think we were hooked!" James Turner recalls Jana's involvement developing quickly. "Jana and Dillon came to 4-H not really knowing what project they wanted to do. They settled on rabbits, and by year two, Jana was volunteering to help wherever she was needed at the show. Jana takes helping the show grow every year seriously." Dillon was in 4-H from then until his senior year, and Jana eventually became the Spring 4-H leader. Dillon joined Spring FFA in high school and through both clubs he raised and showed every species of animals at Tri-Club and entered projects into most arts & crafts categories. Jana also held a Spring FFA Booster Club officer position for many years. Courtney Musterman recalls "Jana was one of the first parents I met when I started working at Spring High School. She was always so helpful and involved. It really helps as a new teacher to have parents that are as great as Jana, that you can count on when you are trying to learn the ropes."

When recalling memories of Dillon's showing days, Jana says the best memories that stand out were when Dillon won Grand Champion Steer and Heifer during one year, and then he won Grand Champion Lamb the year after that. "Those were truly hard projects, all of the family assisted with the duties. My dad loved to help Dillon get from school to the barn and assist with feeding. I remember all of the arts and crafts projects Dillon worked on each year, from baking (with guidance from Nana) to photography, and horticulture. Late nights baking and last minute trips to Michael's for photography frames, I wouldn't trade any of it. They are all very special memories." Spring Tri-Club has always been a family affair for Jana, and like her, they continue to have volunteer roles for the shows. From her husband Smiley assisting with checking in animals each year and serving as a spotter at the Auction, her son Justin and daughter-in-law Madison checking in Buyers for the luncheon and judging at the BBQ Cook-Off, her Mom judging Arts & Crafts projects and at the BBQ Cook-Off, and of course her Dad being so involved in the raising of Dillon's animals and being such a great presence around the show for so many years.

Jana Gonzales has served on the Executive Board of Spring Tri-Club in the Treasurer, Vice-President, and President positions, as well as Chairing the Buyers, Judges and Pageant Committees. Marsha Perez states, "Jana has been a part of the Tri-Club officer team for so many years, it's hard to remember when she wasn't. She is always willing to do whatever it takes for the betterment of Tri-Club and to make the show a success."



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When asking her son Dillon about his Mom's support of the program he states, "With her position on the SISD Board of Trustees, Jana brought awareness of the show to the district and community and helped to form the Spring ISD Stampede Buyer's Group, which in turn has brought more buyers and volunteers to the show."

Spring Tri-Club President Courtney Musterman says Jana is one of the most loyal volunteers. She says Jana is always on top of her duties and steps in anywhere she is needed. "The year we had an officer step down, Jana took over the extra responsibilities, as well as her own. Without volunteers like Jana, we would not be able to continue with our show." Jana is one of the founding members of the Dirty Dozen Buyer's Group. The group began with 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. "I am proud to be a part of a group that has purchased projects and given add-ons totaling over \$135,000. I hope it continues to grow and support the show."

Jana continues to stay involved with Spring Tri-Club for the kids of the community. "She enjoys watching the kids showcase their projects that they've worked on and prepared for all year," Dillon says. Tracy Hershey was Dillon's first 4-H leader, which turned into a friendship with Jana and is now a founding member of the Dirty Dozen Buyer's Group. "Jana is very dedicated to the kids and helping them advance towards their futures, whether it is in the ag industry or not. The objective is to help the students achieve their goals and continue as productive young adults who will help others." Being a parent of a former exhibitor, Jana is able to share what she has learned along the way as a parent, and share that knowledge with parents and their students, as well as with the new teachers and administrators. "It's all about the little details, from showing a project to prepping the facilities, and having someone like Jana, who is also very good at communicating with the teachers, parents and students, makes everything run smoothly," Tracy says. Jana believes that 4-H and FFA organizations are outstanding clubs to belong to. "It's not all about raising animals, there is so much more! I was in Aldine FFA and raised poultry. I learned responsibility, time management, leadership and people skills." Jana developed character traits that she has carried through her life because of her experiences in FFA, and she has watched the same happen for her son. This is part of what motivates her to continue volunteering her time to create opportunities for Spring ISD students to experience the same growth and development that will last their lifetime. "Our time in Spring 4-H and Spring FFA were amazing. Over the years, I have watched students graduate and go on to college, have families and come back and support our show. I love to give back to organizations that have given so much to me and my children."

Spring Tri-Club is forever cemented in Jana's life. "I have truly enjoyed my 20+ years working with Tri-Club. It is all about the students! I've made so many lifelong friends working with this organization. Many of these friends I consider family!" Marsha Perez started her involvement with Tri-Club soon after Jana. They have navigated their volunteer roles together over the years and their dedication seems to feed off of one another. "Year after year, Jana continues to go above and beyond and her involvement is genuinely invaluable," Marsha states. President Courtney Musterman is honored to be able to work beside volunteers like Jana. "She is a true asset and I do not know what I would do without her."

We want to thank Jana for her tireless dedication and service to Spring ISD, Spring Tri-Club and the students of our community. "I am truly honored to be the 2024 Honoree for the show, I never dreamed it would be me. There are so many people that work hard to make our show a success."

