Rusk County 4-H was represented in both the “middle school” and “high school” age divisions of the Drama Festival at the East Texas State Fair-Academic Rodeo on Jan. 29 and Jan. 31, in the Mayfair Building at the fairgrounds in Tyler.

The middle school age division team members representing the Rusk County 4-H program and earning “Applauded Rating” honors were: Andie Anderson, cast director; Taylor Rutherford, Kaylee Jones, Madilyn Powers, Jaidyn Murphy, Amelie White, Winter Curry, Diana Canenquez and Kole Nichols.

The high school age division member representing the Rusk County 4-H program and earning second place in the “Monologue” category was Hannah Parrott.

The East Texas State Fair-Academic Rodeo-Drama Festival is for middle school and high school students interested in the fine arts and is designed to give students a positive theater experience that fosters participation in, commitment to and appreciation of quality theater. By each student’s participation, they learn to appreciate theater as a collaborative art form in which each student can recognize the value of an individual’s contribution to the ensemble.

In the middle school level, the group presented a One Act Play titled “Nobody Famous.” The focus at the high school level is dramatic interpretation in which participants compete in Monologues and/or Duologues. Hannah Parrott competed in the Monologue category.

The Drama Festival requires a high level of both coach and participant dedication, and the Rusk County 4-H middle school team had a wonderfully dedicated coach in Theresa Dennard, Rusk County 4-H Leader. Parrott had Christy Parrott, Rusk County 4-H Leader as her coach.

On Feb. 22, the Academic Awards Ceremony will be held on the fairgrounds in which all Academic Rodeo participants—including all of the Rusk County 4-Hers who have participated in the Agriculture Product ID Contest, Engineering Challenge, Youth Fashion Show, Art Contest, Science Fair, Critters Contest, Science Fair Writing Contest and the Drama Festival—will receive their awards from the 2019 Academic Rodeo.