Bell County 4-H
April Newsletter

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### APRIL

#### April 1:
- 4-H has Talent entries due

#### April 1:
- Last day to pick-up BCYF Exhibits

#### April 1 - May 1:
- Horse Validation

#### April 2:
- Sr. Photos due for Photo Contest, CEO

#### April 2:
- RSVP Volunteer Appreciation Night

#### April 5:
- Recordbook Workshop, 6pm, CEO

#### April 6:
- CEO Closed

#### April 12:
- State Fair Orders Due

#### April 12:
- Volunteer Appreciation Night, 6pm, Expo

#### April 13:
- RSVP for Angler Educational Workshop

#### April 13:
- District Fashion Show, Stephenville

#### April 15-21:
- National Volunteer Week

#### April 16:
- Deadline for National 4-H Congress Applications on 4-H Connect

#### April 17:
- Eat at Fuddruckers Day

#### April 17:
- Can Tab Collection Deadline

#### April 13 & 20:
- State Consumer Practice, 9am, CEO

#### April 23:
- Healthy Lifestyles Orientation, 6pm, CEO

#### April 23:
- 5K Planning Meeting, 2pm, Harris Community Center

#### April 24:
- County Council, 6:30pm, CEO

#### April 24:
- Ambassador Orientation, (After CC), CEO

#### April 28:
- Angler Educational Workshop, 8:45am, CEO

### MAY

#### May 1:
- Deadline for Horse Validation Entries

#### May 1:
- Clover Kid Fair Entry Deadline

#### May 2-12:
- Tractor Supply Paper Clover Campaign

#### May 4:
- Award, Volunteer Nominations, and Ambassador Applications Due, CEO

#### May 4:
- State Consumer Practice, 9am, CEO

#### May 4-6:
- Texas 4-H Foundation Scholarship Interviews

#### May 5:
- District Roundup- Meridian

#### May 9:
- Texas 4-H Roundup Entry Deadline- 4-H Connect

#### May 11:
- State Consumer Practice, 9am, CEO

#### May 12:
- Clover Kid Fair, 10am-1pm, CTCS Lunchroom

#### May 17:
- Safety Day, Belton, 9am, Expo

#### May 18:
- State Consumer Practice, 9am, CEO

#### May 19:
- 5K Run & Walk, 7:30am, Harris Community Center

#### May 22:
- Banquet Committee Meeting, 6pm, CEO

#### May 22:
- Eat at Fuddruckers Day

#### May 23-24:
- Award and Ambassador Interviews, 4pm, CEO

#### May 25:
- State Consumer Practice, 9am, CEO

#### May 25:
- District Horse Show Entries Due, CEO

#### May 27:
- Broiler Orders Due

#### May 28:
- Holiday- Office Closed

#### May 31:
- Mandatory Club Manager Training/MAB meeting, 6pm, CEO
County Council News

MONTH/DATE | THEME | PROGRAM
---|---|---
April 24 | "United States" | Officer Elections
May, June, July | | ***** NO MEETING *****

The Bell County 4H County Council will meet on **Tuesday, April 24, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. at the County Extension Office Meeting Room**. The council is ending it’s trip around the world by coming back home to **America**. It is Election time. Be patriotic, run for an officer position, and wear Red, White, and Blue. **This meeting is mandatory for all club presidents and council delegates in order to elect officers!!!** If you cannot attend, you **must** find a replacement from your club to represent you at the meeting. Remember that each club needs to be represented by two delegates, they are the voting delegates for the club. The council will not be able to vote on officers unless at least **50% of the clubs are present**! **Come Join in the Fun!!**

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**County Council Officer Elections**

The Bell County 4H County Council will be **electing officers for the 2012-2013 4H year** at the **April 24th** County Council meeting. If you are interested in running for an officer position, please fill out a Intent To Run Form and bring it to the April meeting!!! A form must be filled out to run for an officer position. **To get a form, go to:**

(https://a agrilife.org/bell4h/4-h-clubs-and-councils/4-h-county-council)

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**Volunteers**

We would like to honor and appreciate our volunteers by providing a **Volunteer Appreciation Night on April 12th, 6pm at the Expo Special Events Room**. A meal will be provided for you and our family. Please RSVP to the CEO by **April 2nd, 2012** to guarantee your seat and dinner. We look forward to celebrating a wonderful evening with you!
Attention All Volunteers!! There will be 5K planning meeting April 23rd, 2pm at Harris Community Center. The 5K will be May 19th, 2012, 7:30am at the Harris Community Center.

Need to have more family meals together?? Want to help 4-H make some money? Bring your family to Fuddruckers in April, May!

All you have to do is pay for your meal and drop your receipt in the basket labeled “4-H” and 4-H will receive money!!

Fuddruckers locations are:

- Temple in the Mall (Proceeds go to Bell County 4-H)
- Killeen on 190 (Proceeds go to Military 4-H)

Dates for this fall are: April 17~May 22

Go and eat a great meal with your family and support the 4-H program!

If you haven't had the opportunity yet visit the 2012 Texas 4-H Roundup page on Facebook, it is a great way to let your friends and fellow 4-Hers know of the upcoming events by "liking" the 2012 Texas 4-H Roundup page at:


Deadline for entries: May 9th
Photography Contest

This year’s entries will again be entered via a CD/Jump drive and will be an electronic contest. They also added story board to the categories! All entries are due April 2, 2012. Please make sure and follow the instructions in the State Photography Guidelines for rules on submitting for county. The 2012 Texas 4-H Roundup Photography Rules and Guidelines are available on the Bell County 4-H website:

http://agrilife.org/bell4h/projects/photographyproject/

To enter county, please bring a jump drive/CD (that you do not mind getting back) and place it in a quart size Ziploc bag. Staple the bag to the back of the county entry form. Entry forms are also located on the photography website. Please follow the State rules on naming your photos.

4-H Photography Participants

Attention all 4-H Photography Participants, Mr. Jerry Prickett from the Temple Daily Telegram is requesting the use of photos from 4-H contests past & present. The kids should write a brief description of the photo and what awards it has won. For more information you can contact Mr. Prickett at 254-778-4444 or email him at jprickett@tdtnews.com with a cc to tdt@tdtnews.com

County Community Service Project Contest

Can Tab Collection – clubs collect soda can tabs between the months of January 2012 to April 2012. In April the club with the most tabs collected will have a choice between having an ice cream or pizza party. Last day to drop off can tabs will be April 17th. Currently Holland 4-H is in the lead.

National 4-H Congress

The 2011 National 4-H Congress will be November 22-27, 2012 at the Hyatt Regency in Atlanta, Georgia. National 4-H Congress is the flagship event of the National 4-H Program. Deadline for applications will be April 16, 2012.
2012 Healthy Lifestyles Invitational

The 4-H Healthy Lifestyles Invitational provides youth in the intermediate and senior age divisions the opportunity to participate in a competitive event and utilize the knowledge and skills gained through participation in 4-H healthy lifestyles programs. With a set-up similar to the Consumer Decision Making Contest, the healthy lifestyles invitational consists of two parts: (1) Judging - participants are presented with a scenario and must individually rank the four products/choices based upon the situation at-hand; (2) Presentation - teams are presented with a scenario and must work together within a given amount of time to analyze the situation, develop a solution and make a team presentation to a panel of judges. More information and resources are available online at:

http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/healthy_lifestyles

Bell County 4-H will be having meetings to prepare for the Healthy Lifestyles Contest. This contest is again open for all intermediates and seniors and you get to go automatically to Texas 4-H Roundup in Lubbock on June 14, 2012.

Tractor Supply Company

The Spring 2012 TSC Paper Clover Campaign is scheduled May 2-12, 2012. The clovers are only $1 and we received over $900 this year from the last clover campaign. We really need clubs to help participate and pick a day to stand outside and sell the paper clovers. If your club is interested, please email Barbara Wood woodb2@clearwire.net and sign up for a day to help! We have 2 stores in Bell County, Killeen and Temple. Please sign up and help! Funds help the county pay for workshops, camps & many other great opportunities for you as a member!
ADULT LEADER AWARDS

OUTSTANDING LEADER AWARDS:
Bell County 4-H volunteer leaders and Bell County 4-H County Council will solicit nominations and vote to select two individuals to be recognized at the Annual 4-H Banquet for “Distinguished Service.” One will be chosen by the MAB and one chosen by 4-H members. 4-H volunteer leaders who are chosen for this award include outstanding club managers, leaders, project leaders, workshop leaders and volunteer leaders who go above and beyond their leader capabilities.

OUTSTANDING LEADER AWARD- The Outstanding Leader Award chosen from the 4-H member requires an essay no longer than 1 page. The ESSAYS ARE DUE May 4, 2012! The essay should include the following:
Name of Person Making Nomination
Leader Nominated
Date
Why do you think this leader is an outstanding leader?
What does this leader do that is outstanding? Examples: Teaches others new projects, takes 4-Her’s on tours, leads club, etc.
How has this leader helped you?
How has this leader helped others?

SAVE THE DATE!!
Next year’s Hunter Spectacular is scheduled for
October 13, 2012

State Fair of Texas Broiler
4-H members who plan to show broilers in Dallas should contact Randall or Pam no later than May 25, 2012

State Fair Tag Orders Due
4-H members who plan to show a lamb, goat, or barrow at the State Fair of Texas in 2012 must order validation tags for the number of animals they plan to validate no later than April 16, 2012. Call Randall or Pam at the Extension Office to order your tags at 254-933-5305.
2012 4-H Horse Certification/Validation

Deadline: May 1, 2012 on 4-H Connect

For 2012, the horse validation process will be completed electronically using the 4-H Connect online management system. All 4-H members who wish to show at their District Show or the State 4-H Horse Show will be REQUIRED to validate their horse(s) on the 4-H Connect system. Horse validation is completed for EACH HORSE and will cover all 4-H youth members in that family profile. When validating your horse(s) on 4-H Connect, you will select ONLY ONE 4-H youth member to conduct the validation under. Once a horse is validated, validation paid, and you begin registering for the District Horse Show, the validated horse(s) can be moved to the appropriate 4-H member(s) that will be exhibiting the horse in the show. Validation will be open from APRIL 1, 2012 to MAY 1, 2012. Any horse validated before or after this date will NOT be accepted. An illustrated step-by-step instruction guide for families is available for download and reference on both the Texas 4-H website (http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/) and the Texas A&M University Department of Animal Science – Equine Science website (http://animalscience.tamu.edu/academics/equine/index.htm). Validation cost for each horse is $10.00. Each 4-H family validating a horse(s) will need to print an invoice for each horse and provide the invoice(s) and check to the County Extension Office. The County Extension Office will prepare ONE consolidated Club/County check, and mail it to the Texas 4-H Foundation.

Validation is required for showing at district or state horse shows, and its purpose is to certify that ownership requirements have been met. The horse MUST be owned solely by the 4-H member, his/her parents (biological or stepparents), brother, sister, grandparents, or legal guardian. Horses under lease to, but not owned by any of the named persons, do NOT qualify. Horses owned in partnership or jointly with any person other than those previously listed do NOT meet ownership requirements. There is no limit to the number of horses that can be validated.

Much MORE information can be found on the Bell County 4-H Horse Project Website: http://agrilife.org/bell4h/projects/horse-project/

Dates to Remember: Horse Activity dates to put on your calendar now!!!!

May 1, 2012- Deadline to Validate ownership for District 8 and State Competition

TBA (Late May)- Deadline to submit entries for the District 8 Horse Show to the County Extension Office (forms available after Validation is complete)

June 18-19, 2012- District 8 Horse Show at the Bell County Expo Center

July 21-28, 2012- State 4-H Horse Show in Abilene (entries due at the District Horse Show June 18-19)
Thank you for all you do!

**National Volunteer Week is April 15-21, 2012.** Recognize your volunteers this month in your club or organizations! Sometimes we take our volunteers for granted! April is National Volunteer Month and we want to say thank you to all of our volunteers that make 4-H possible! Thanks for being great volunteers and helping teach 4-H members value skills they can use for the rest of their lives! You are valuable to us! THANK YOU!

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**Recordbook Workshop**

Do you want to apply for 4-H awards or a scholarship and cannot because you have not completed a recordbook!? Well, you are in luck! Bell County 4-H will be holding a Recordbook Workshop on how to complete a recordbook! Recordbooks are not always boring, so tips will be given on how to make it more fun and meaningful to you! **The recordbook training will be held on April 5th** at the Bell County Extension Office Meeting Room at 6pm. Remember there is a new system this year so experienced recordbook members should attend.

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**Clover Kid Fair**

Clover Kids are “budding” 4-H members ages 5-8 years old who are enrolled with a community 4-H Club. The Clover Kid Fair is a chance for them to participate in a fair just for Clover Kids and show what they have been learning! This is a great opportunity for them to become more familiar with what to expect as a real 4-H member down the road.

The event will be on **May 12th** at the Central Texas Christian School Lunchroom from 10am to 1pm this year. All parents and family members are welcome to attend.

Youth can enter Food, Textiles, Creative Arts, Photography, etc. (See entry forms for all entries.) At the end of the event, residents and guests are able to sample the baked goodies. Clovers need to provide enough for samples.

**Entry forms are due at the County Extension Office by May 1, 2012.** Entry forms can be found on the Bell County 4-H Website. ([http://agrilife.org/bell4h/4-h-activities/clover-kid-fair/](http://agrilife.org/bell4h/4-h-activities/clover-kid-fair/)).

For more information or if you would like to help, contact Barbara Wood at 939-0226.
Bell County 4-H Awards

All 4-H members applying for awards (Gold, Silver or Bronze Star; Rookie, Honor Roll, All-Star Letterman; Danforth, Senior Awards Outstanding Community Service, must submit the appropriate paperwork and applications by May 4, 2012. Award Interviews will be on May 23 and 24, 2012 at the Bell County Extension Office. Record books for county competition will be due June 18, 2012. Awards age based on age as of August 31, 2011.

Graduating seniors for the 2012 year, who are members of 4-H, may apply to receive a Senior Award, to be presented at the Bell County 4-H Awards Banquet. Seniors must have been active and meet the requirements listed on the application.

Other descriptions and awards information is available on the Bell County 4-H Website by going to: http://agrilife.org/bell4h/4-h-activities/4-h-awards/

MAB Meeting/Club Manager Training

We will be having a MAB meeting on May 31, 2012 at 6pm at the CEO. We require ALL CLUB MANAGERS AND ASST CLUB MANAGERS TO ATTEND!!!! This meeting will be a major meeting because we have decided to go ahead and do the club manager training at this meeting. We also plan to vote on officers and vote on the budget for the current year and possibly the new year. We will also be discussing the new 4-H cost recovery measures/participation fee and showing you the new online enrollment for next year. This will be a HUGE and IMPORTANT meeting. We will be having a potluck dinner so bring your favorite dish to share with everyone! Drinks will be provided. FYI this meeting may take longer than expected because of the training so please make time to come. Also, this meeting is NOT just for club and asst club managers, all parents and leaders are invited.

We must have over 50% of the clubs to vote from each of the clubs. If you cannot attend, you MUST find a replacement from your club to represent you at the club meeting! Each club is allowed a maximum of 3 votes.
Applying for Bell County 4-H Ambassador?

The Bell County 4-H Ambassador Program aims to project a clear and accurate image of the Texas and Bell County 4-H & Youth Development Program. They help older youth develop leadership and communication skills, help the public understand the full scope of the 4-H program, and recruit new members from diverse backgrounds.

If you are interested in applying or plan to renew, there will be a MANDATORY meeting on April 24th (after CC meeting) in the County Extension Office Board Room. We will be going over the NEW rules and guidelines for the year. It should only take 30 minutes. Please make plans if you are planning to apply or renew as Ambassadors.

Bell County 4-H Members must meet the following requirements to be considered for selection as an Bell County 4-H Ambassador:

Be at least 14 years of age as of August 31 on the year of application.

Example: the 4-H youth must be 14 on August 31, 2012, to be eligible to be a 4-H Ambassador for the 2012-2013 4-H year. If a 4-H youth is 13 at the time of the application deadline in May, they may still apply if they will reach their 14th birthday before August 31st.

Must have been a member of 4-H for a minimum of two years at the time of submitting the application. (Exception: May apply if less than 2 years but acceptance will be based on their involvement the previous year and the number applying for ambassador positions the current 2012-2013 year. - A recordbook submission from the previous year 2011-2012 year may also be asked of if applying). Acceptance will be depending on Advisors and/or County Extension Agents.

**Submit a complete application, due on May 4, 2012.**

A formal interview will be given after all applications have been submitted. Members will be notified for interview times. Interviews will be formal dress.

RENEWAL OF AMBASSADORS:

Meet all activity requirements and minimum points by the application deadline, May 4, 2012, of the current 4-H year to be considered for renewal. (Recordbook is also a requirement and is due June 18, 2012).
Angler Educational Workshop

We will be hosting an Angler Educational Workshop on April 28th from 8:45am-11:30pm. This workshop will be open for youth ages 9-12 years old.

The youth will be taught: State Fishing Regulations, Fishing Safety, Tackle, 1 Basic Knot, Fish Habitat, Freshwater Fish Identification, Bait and Lures, Fishing Ethics and Responsibilities, and Dry - Land Casting. Please RSVP by: April 13th.

4-H Statewide Photography Workshop

June 21-22, 2012

June 21st: 8:45am- 4:00pm (Check in: 8:00-8:45am)
June 22nd: 8:30am- 12:00pm (Check in: 8:00-8:30am)

$20 for youth and adults

Entry Deadline: June 4, 2012

Spend a couple extra days after Texas 4-H Roundup and join us for the 4-H Statewide Photography Workshop!

Learn new and basic photography techniques at the Statewide Photography Workshop! The second day will be a field trip to the antique tractor fairgrounds where we will take pictures of tractors, old buildings, people in costume, and horses.

Schedule and speakers to be posted soon:
http://agrilife.org/bell4h/projects/photographyproject/

4-H Banquet

The 4-H Banquet is set for August 25, 2012, so please mark your calendar. The banquet cost will be FREE. We also need pictures for the slideshow. Pictures can be emailed to mlholcombe@ag.tamu.edu or burned on to a CD or flash drive and dropped by the Extension Office. The last day to accept pictures will be August 3rd. Pictures are for the slideshow which is a great opportunity to show what clubs and 4-H members have been doing all year. Please make sure and give pictures so your club and your family are in the slideshow!
**COUNTY CAMP**

**County Camp for Bell County 4-H is set for July 9-12, 2012 at Brownwood.**

**Registration is open** at http://texas4hcenter.tamu.edu/. The fee will be the full amount as listed during registration which will include the bus trip. T-Shirts are available for sale during registration, we will not have **COUNTY** 4-H shirts this year. Please also see the Bell County 4-H website for more details.

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**Check Out the Bell County 4-H website for a list of all 2012 4-H Camps.**

http://agrilife.org/bell4h/4-h-activities/campinformation/#County Camp

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**Bell County Extension**

1605 N. Main, Room 102
Belton, TX 76513
Phone: 254.933.5305
FAX: 254.933.5312

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**BELL COUNTY 4-H FOCUS**

Randall Rakowitz
County Extension Agent
Natural Resources

Micah Holcombe
County Extension Agent
4-H and Youth Development

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Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.
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Do you have what it takes to be a star? Have you always pictured yourself performing on the “Big Stage?”

If so, the 2012 Texas 4-H Roundup 4-H Has Talent Competition is for you. Get the chance to show your skills on stage in front of nearly 3,000 fellow 4-H’ers, parents/volunteers, and 4-H faculty. So sing a song, do a dance, tell a joke or just do something unusual!

Deadline for Submission
All entries must be received by the State 4-H Office by April 1, 2012

How to get involved

Submissions must be uploaded to YouTube (all links made public).

Submissions must be appropriate for 4-H youth.

A 4-H member may only participate on one team/entry.

Intermediate and Senior aged 4-H members are allowed to participate in this activity.

Teams may be one age category or a combination of both intermediates and seniors.

An individual and/or team (max 7 members) may only submit one video.

10 finalists will be selected by a expert panel of judges.

Those 10 finalists will then have the opportunity to perform on Tuesday, June 12, 2012 at the Tuesday night assembly at the United Spirit Arena in Lubbock, Texas.

After all finalists are finished performing, the audience will have the opportunity to vote via text message to select their winner.

Top two entries selected at Roundup will win cash awards.

Submission Guidelines

- Videos must be uploaded to YouTube
- Maximum Length: 5 minutes
- Links must be submitted via e-mail to Kyle Merten at kjmerten@ag.tamu.edu

Please include in your email the following:

- Name of group/act
- Names of each participant and age
- County/countyies representing
- Contact person
- Following information for contact:
  - Address
  - City/State/Zip
  - Phone
  - E-mail