August

August 1: Pictures for Banquet Due
August 4-6: Vet Science Day Camp, 9am-3pm EXPO
August 4: State Recordbook Judging, Corsicana
August 4: RSVP Chef Day Camp
August 6: Livestock Judging Participant Meeting, 6pm, EXPO
August 9: County Council Office Training, CEO, 1pm-4pm
August 9: Ambassador Training, CEO, 4pm-6pm
August 11: RSVP Banquet
August 14: Hunter’s Spectacular Meeting, Expo, 6pm
August 14: Chef Day Camp, 9am-2pm, CEO
August 15: State Fair Entries Due by 5:00pm
August 15: Heart of Texas Entries Due by 5:00pm
August 17: Lamb & Goat Showmanship Classes, 1pm-4pm
August 19: Fuddruckers Day
August 19: Finance Committee Meeting, Fuddruckers-Temple, 7pm
August 21: Clothing Advisory Board Meeting, CEO, 6pm
August 23: Banquet, EXPO, 6pm
August 24: Lamb & Goat Showmanship Classes, 1pm-4pm
August 26: Open House Committee Meeting, 5:30pm, CEO
August 26: RSVP for an Open House Booth
August 26: MAB Meeting, 6:30pm, CEO
August 29-30: Fishing Tournament
August 30: Central Texas State Fair, Expo, All Day
August 31: Lamb & Goat Showmanship Classes, 1pm-4pm

September

September 1: Labor Day, Office Closed
September 6: Leaders 4 Life Workshop, Ronald McDonald House, 9am-12pm
September 6: BCYF Commercial Steer Weigh-In, 8:00am
September 9: Open House, Expo, 5:30pm-8:00pm
September 9: Major Show Broiler Orders Due, CEO
September 10: Livestock Project Workshop, 5pm-8pm, EXPO
September 10: RSVP FCS Project Leader Training
September 13: Food and Nutrition/FCS Competition Workshop, 9am-12pm, Ronald McDonald House
September 13: FCS Leader Training, 1:30pm-4pm, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Temple, Ave H and 43rd Street.

September 15-16: Turn in Hunter’s Spectacular Tickets to Club Managers (unless earlier date from Club)
September 17-19: Hunter’s Spectacular Tickets Due to CEO (from Club Managers ONLY)
September 19: Baskets or $5 for Silent Auction due to CEO
September 23: County Council, 8:30pm, CEO
September 27: Cakes due for HS, 9am-11am, EXPO
September 27: Hunter’s Spectacular, 6pm, Expo

Inside Issue:

4-H Enrollment
Livestock Link/Banquet/State Fair of Texas/Heart of Texas
Hunter’s Spectacular/Fuddruckers/Fuddruckers/BCYF Commercial Steer Weight-In
4-H Livestock Projects/MAB Meeting/FCS Competition Workshop
Lamb & Goat Showmanship Classes/Leaders 4 Life
FCS Project Training
Major Show Broilers/Open House Committee Meeting/Fun for the Whole Family
4-H Open House/County Council Meeting
Livestock Judging Participant Meeting/Bell County Livestock Project Workshop
Heifer Validation Update
Welcome to Texas 4-H!
4-H Instructions
BCYF Rules
August Calendar
September Calendar
4-H Enrollment starts **August 15th**!!! All enrollment is done via 4-H Connect this year. You can access 4-H Connect by going to our 4-H website at http://agrilife.org/bell4h/ and clicking on the 4-H Connect icon.

To maintain the level of programming and opportunities in the Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program, an annual participant fee is implemented for each 4-H member (Clover Kids & Adult Volunteers excluded) starting this 2014-2015 4-H year. The participant fee is $20 if enrolled from **August 15 to October 31st**, November 1st the participant fee will increase to $25.

**Please do not worry if you are still pending at the county level once you have enrolled.** The county office will try to keep up as best as we can by approving them at least once a week. As long as you complete your enrollment, you are in the system and good for enrollment and BCYF requirements.

For instructions on how to enroll, please visit: http://agrilife.org/bell4h/4-h-enrollment-guidelines/4-h-enrollment-information/

***NEW THIS YEAR-All volunteers who enroll will be charged $5.00 each volunteer. This covers your screening for the year. All volunteers will have to enroll each year.***

If you have further questions, please contact the County Extension Office at: 254-933-5305
4-H Livestock Link

We have a new 4-H Livestock page on the Bell County 4-H Website:

http://agrilife.org/bell4h/projects/4-h-livestock/

We will be posting jackpots on the website for your information!

4-H Banquet

The 4-H Banquet is set for August 23, 2014, so please mark your calendar. The banquet cost will be FREE. We also need pictures for the slideshow. Pictures can be burned on to a CD or flash drive and dropped by the Extension Office. The last day to accept pictures will be August 2nd. 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!

RSVP by: August 11th

State Fair of Texas Entries

4-H members who validated an animal and plan to show at the State Fair must complete and turn entries in to the Extension Office no later than August 15, 2014. Entry forms can be picked up and completed at the Extension Office.

Heart of Texas Fair

Any 4-H member who plans to show at the 2014 Heart of Texas Fair must complete and turn entry forms into the county extension office no later than August 15, 2014. Entry forms can be obtained from the Extension Office.
SAVE THE DATE!!

Hunter Spectacular is scheduled September 27, 2014

***Tickets are available to sale. Please pick them up through your club manager.***

Need to have more family meals together?? Want to help 4-H make some money? Bring your family to Fuddruckers this Spring!

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)

Remaining dates for this spring/summer are:

**August 19**

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

For those 4-H members who plan on showing Commercial Steers at the Bell County Youth Fair, the Commercial Steer Weigh-In will be held on **Saturday, September 6, 2014 at 8:00 a.m.** at the W.C. Evans Ranch in Little River-Academy, TX. For additional information you can call the CEO.
4-H Livestock Projects

Anyone needing assistance in selecting or securing livestock projects please contact Heidi Prude by calling the County Extension Office.

(254)-933-5305

MAB Meeting

This meeting is open to all parents and leaders! We will be having our first meeting of the year on August 26, at 6:30pm, at the Extension Office. We will be discussing the Hunter’s Spectacular and having a short program.

Food and Nutrition/FCS Competition Workshop

On September 13th, Bell County 4-H will be hosting a Food Competition Workshop at the Ronald McDonald House from 9:00am-12:00pm. We will attempt cover information regarding the following competitions: Food Show, F&N Quiz Bowl, Food Challenge, Recipe Rally, Healthy Lifestyles Invitational, and Open FCS Educational Presentation. In addition we will be preparing a meal for the residents to have that evening. The fee to attend this workshop will be box/bag of individually packaged servings of the following: cereal, chips, crackers, pudding, or other snacks (not homemade).
**Lamb & Goat Showmanship Classes!!!**

(starting **August 17**)

Sunday’s from 1pm-4pm

********FREE of Charge********

Learn all types of showmanship skills.

Experience for as many as 5 years with helping kids!

For more information please call:

Lacee Kight at: (254)-247-7911

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**Leaders 4 Life Workshop**

Have you ever wanted to learn how to run your 4-H Club Meeting effectively as a club officer? Do you want to learn about the Leaders 4 Life project and how to get involved? We are going to have a Leaders 4 Life Workshop at Ronald McDonald House on **September 6th** from 9am-12pm. Admission to this workshop is going to be two vanilla scented air fresheners (solid or glade plug-in refills). We will also be fixing a meal for the residents that evening. Please RSVP before **September 2, 2014**, by calling the Extension Office at 254-933-5305.
FCS Project Leader Training

Date: September 13, 2014
Time: 1:30pm-4:00pm
Place: Immanuel Lutheran (Ave H and 43rd Street)
RSVP: September 10, 2014
Cost: FREE/Take your lessons back to your club!

Bell County 4-H will be holding a FCS Project Training for all 4-H Club Leaders and Teen Leaders. This is open to ALL 4-H parents and teens ages 14 and up who would like to learn about the FCS projects and bring them back to their clubs to teach others.

Here are the areas to cover at the workshop:

- Food and Nutrition
- Clothing and Textiles
- Consumer Education
- Family Life
- Health
- Housing and Home Environment
- Safety
- Additional areas to be covered:
  - Photography
  - Leaders for Life
  - Public Speaking

Each project area will cover the description of the project and contests involved. Each topic will be 15 minutes long approximately.
**Major Show Broilers**

4-H members who plan to show broilers at San Antonio, Houston or Austin or roasters at the Star of Texas Fair in Austin must order no later than **September 9, 2014**. The minimum order is 25 birds per exhibitor. You may order a maximum of 75 birds per exhibitor and you must order in multiples of 25. Families cannot order one set of birds (75) for multiple children. Each exhibitor must select and exhibit their pen of 3 from the birds assigned to them. Contact Pam to order or with questions you may have.

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**Open House Committee Meeting**

Anyone interested in planning the Open House set for **September 9, 2014**, are invited to attend. The meeting will be **August 26th** (Before the MAB meeting) at 5:30pm at the Extension Office.

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**Fun for the Whole Family!**

We need your help! Each year, the Bell County 4-H hosts fundraisers to help with the costs of supporting our youth.

Our event is called the Hunter’s Spectacular and will be held **September 27, 2014** at the Bell County Expo Center. We will have lots of fun things for the whole family at the event including a meal, silent auction, live auction, vendors, and even have games. We will also have a drawing for 20 guns, binoculars, hunting equipment, t-shirts for sale and lots of other fun prizes. For the young people, we have games and activities and even a cake walk. A live auction of outdoor items will take place that evening as well as a silent auction with the hunter in mind.

**We need our 4-H members to sell tickets to the event.** Your club manager will be asking each of you to participate and we want you to know that we utilize the funds raised for the total Bell County 4-H program….which includes you! We are able to help offset the costs of many events, camps, livestock supplies, workshops, contests, and leadership activities through these funds. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to call the Extension Office and visit with Micah about the event. All your tickets should be turned in to your club manager before October 1st. **Club managers will have to turn in tickets on September 17-19.** *(Tickets are available through your club manager starting NOW!)*

If you are interested in helping, please contact Micah Holcombe at mlholcombe@ag.tamu.edu.
4-H Open House will be held September 9th from 5:30-8pm at the Bell County Expo Assembly Hall. Do you need more project experience for your recordbook or project form? Do you want to gain more members for your club? Here is your opportunity!!!!!! If you would like to be in charge of a project or club booth at the Open House, please see the doodle link: [http://doodle.com/stzynzw2pbdapxff](http://doodle.com/stzynzw2pbdapxff) and let her know which project you would like to demonstrate or which club you plan to have a booth. Hands on activities are encouraged at each project booth! Project booths are first come first serve. **Booths are to be reserved by August 26th!!**

(Those participating in project demonstrations and club booths need to be at the Expo Center by 5:00 p.m. to set up and be ready by 5:30pm) **A committee meeting will be held August 26th at 5:30pm at the CEO to plan for Open House.**

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**County Council Meeting in September**

The Bell County 4-H County Council will meet on **September 23, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. at the County Extension Office Meeting Room.** Remember the council delegate and the president of the club are the two representatives from your club who come to the meeting and are voting delegates for the club. All 4-H members are welcome though! It will be a lot of fun, so come and learn about the county 4-H program and vote on exciting new 4-H opportunities. Stay tuned for the THEME in the next newsletter and what to wear to the meeting!
Bell County 4-H Livestock Judging Participant Meeting!

For those interested in participating on the Bell County 4-H livestock judging team for the 2014-2015 we will be having our kick-off meeting on Wednesday August 6th at 6PM in the board room at the extension office. All kids are welcome to attend whether you have been on the team in previous years or not. A parent/or guardian will need to be present at the meeting to sign paperwork. We will be covering the new team guidelines as the program this year will be different than in years past. I hope to see everyone there!

FIRST ANNUAL BELL COUNTY LIVESTOCK PROJECT WORKSHOP

When: Wednesday September 10, 2014

Where: Bell County Expo Center Exhibition Building

Time: FREE Dinner and booths will open at 5 PM, Program will begin at 6:00 PM and end approximately 8:00PM

Program will include a general session on Quality Counts program and the importance of showmanship as well as break-out sessions with specie specialists that will cover basics of show animal selection, feed/nutrition management, exercise programs, and many more helpful hints for both the experienced and inexperienced showman. Break-out sessions will be given by knowledgeable specialists within each of the following animal areas: sheep, goats, swine, and beef. This program will be beneficial for families that already have a livestock project or for those that are interested in starting a livestock project program within their family.

More details on event will be coming at a later date.

If you have any questions feel free to contact Heidi Prude at the extension office (254) 933-5305 or by e-mail heidi.prude@ag.tamu.edu
HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE!
2014-2015 Texas 4-H/FFA Heifer Validation UPDATE!

Texas is privileged to have the largest junior breeding heifer program in the nation. However, the sheer size of Texas, diversity in counties and beef breed associations has created some challenges for effectively and fairly managing the program. Because of numerous breed divisions offered, there are inconsistencies in how breed associations record purchase and transfer information. Heifer Validation is being initiated to ensure a level playing field for all junior breeding beef heifer exhibitors and to present a unified approach to verifying breeding beef heifer registration papers, ownership and physical possession. Further, history has proven collecting DNA hair samples during validation has added integrity to market animal divisions. Therefore, we are implementing a statewide electronic verification process in addition to requiring the physical validation of breeding beef heifers. An electronic verification process will ensure that ownership has been transferred by the respective ownership deadlines. The verification process along with the added physical validation component will allow for certifying exhibitor ownership, possession, heifer identification (tattoo/brand) far in advance of each respective major livestock show. Full and part-time personnel will be required to effectively review and validate all submitted heifer registration papers and to enforce rules during the participating major livestock shows.

2015 Spring Show Timeline

**October 1, 2014**- Heifer Verification Database is open to ASTs/CEAs
**November 1, 2014**- Ownership deadline for all spring shows
**November 15, 2014**- Registration Paper upload deadline and physical validation paperwork and DNA must be postmarked and sent to Texas 4-H Headquarters
**December 19, 2014**- Projected deadline for all papers to be reviewed by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
**January 7, 2015**- Projected deadline for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service to notify all ineligible exhibitors and major livestock show officials for spring shows

Registration Paper Upload
Agriculture Science Teachers and County Extension Agents will be required to upload electronic copies of original registration papers for all junior breeding beef heifers to be exhibited or substituted at any of the aforementioned shows. ASTs and CEAs must adhere to the aforementioned deadlines and requirements. **Substitute entries will not be accepted at any of the Texas major livestock shows unless they are validated through the Texas 4-H/FFA Heifer Validation Program.**

On-site Registration Paper Confirmation and DNA Collection
Exhibitors for all of the aforementioned shows are required to bring the original registration paper to the show ring and to keep the original paper in their possession while exhibiting the heifer. The Texas 4-H/FFA Heifer Validation Program representative will be present to verify that the identification on placing heifers matches that of the original papers. DNA hair samples will be collected on breed and reserve breed champions. The Texas 4-H/FFA Heifer Validation Program representative will also have access to the database and may reference any paper electronically at the request of each individual participating show. Further, major livestock shows may request additional DNA comparisons on any validated heifer shown at their respective livestock show.

Validation Fee
A $10 fee will be required for each heifer validated for 2015 spring and fall shows.

Heifer Validation for Bell County will be **October 29**, from 4pm-7pm at the Bell County Expo Center.
Welcome to Texas 4-H!

Welcome to the largest youth organization in Texas! Texas has more than 550,000 youth who are involved in 4-H experiences each year and we are pleased that you have decided to join 4-H for the 2014-2015 year! If you are new to 4-H, here is some information about our enrollment process and how we need your partnership in getting your membership entered and active!

Each year on August 15th all membership in Texas 4-H goes to inactive and all youth members and adult volunteers must re-enroll. Youth members are required to pay a $20.00 participation fee if enrolled by October 31st, and a $25.00 fee from November 1st to the completion of the 4-H year. Adults pay a $5.00 volunteer applicant fee starting in the 2014-2015 4-H year. Adults and youth will need to enroll on 4HConnect and be active to be considered an official member of Texas 4-H. An active enrollment is required in order to register and participate in all 4-H activities and events.

Enrollment payment methods, procedures and additional fees may vary in each county, so check with your local county Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service office for more information. (counties.agrilife.org) When you are enrolling in 4-H and you arrive at the invoice/payment screen, you will be able to add your credit card information into the system or select the club/county (no personal checks allowed) check payment option. If the club/county check option is visible, please make sure you are allowed to use it. Some counties require all enrollment to be paid by credit card. If you are allowed to use the club/county check option you are responsible for writing a check to your club/county 4-H Program which in return will send a club/county check to the Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation. Once a payment method has been selected and enrollment submitted the payment type cannot be changed.

4HConnect is...

• The official Texas 4-H Youth Development Program database for enrolled 4-H members and volunteers.
• A secured database that is in compliance with the PCI Security Standards Council. The Texas 4-H Youth Development Program and the 4HOnline company work closely to monitor and ensure the highest level of protection for information stored on the system. Texas 4-H, nor 4HOnline, does not share or sell any personal information to third party vendors without your knowledge or permission.
• Based on “zero-based enrollment.” This means that each year at the start of the enrollment cycle membership in Texas 4-H goes to zero and everyone must re-enroll. This process is based on federal accounting policies.
• A partnership between the 4-H family and the county Extension Office. We encourage all 4-H families to become familiar with 4-H CONNECT in order to prevent “meltdowns” at crucial times of enrollment, animal validation or registration! Please work with the county Extension Office for any questions or problems you maybe experiencing with the system.
• NOT a database for counties/clubs/families to enter family members (i.e. siblings, grandparents, etc) that are not directly involved as a 4-H member or volunteer.

Did You Know:

• Most questions can be answered by calling your county extension office. (counties.agrilife.org/)
• You are not a member or a volunteer of Texas 4-H until you have an ACTIVE status listed on your profile in 4-H CONNECT.
• 4-H members CANNOT register for an event/context until the member profile is ACTIVE. If the county requires paper enrollment forms, that office has to enter enrollment information into the 4-H CONNECT system as well.
• Adult Volunteers are required to be screened through the Texas 4-H Youth Protection Standards program every three years.
• The Texas 4-H Foundation does not accept any personal checks for participation fees, animal validations or event registrations.
• A youth that is 8 years old and going into the 3rd grade must wait until September 1st to enroll for proper fees to be accessed in the system.

To help ensure your first time enrollment, or your re-enrollment, is as easy as possible, this document has been developed to lead you through the process. Please read and contact your county Extension Office if you have any questions prior to you beginning the enrollment process. (counties.agrilife.org/)
1. Access the 4-H CONNECT on-line system at: https://texas4honline.com/

2. **New Members:** Select [I need to set up a profile].
   **Returning Members:** Select [I have a profile] or [I forgot my password].
   Contact County Extension Office for resetting assistance.

3. **New Members:** Select Adult or Youth from the drop down menu and click [Add Member].
   **Returning Members:** Click [Edit] to the right of the inactive member’s profile.

4. Once all profile information is current and correct under the Personal Information, Additional Information, Health Form, and Participation areas of enrollment continue to the Invoice page.

5. Review your invoice to ensure that the participation fee has been charged and it is correct. If you have been awarded an award certificate or a scholarship to cover your participation fee, enter the award code in the award code box. Once information has been reviewed, click continue to the Payment screen.

6. **New Members:** If you are new to 4-H, you can add your credit card payment information to 4-H CONNECT and it will be securely stored. Click the orange [Add New Credit Card] link if paying with credit card or select the county club check option.
   **Returning Members:** If the credit card on file has been updated you will need to remove it and add the credit card again using the new information.

7. Select the appropriate method of payment by clicking on the correct button, then click [Select Payment Method].

8. On the “Confirm page” each person will be required to click the [Pay By Computer Terms and Conditions]. Click [Submit Enrollment]

9. Once an enrollment (new member) or re-enrollment (returning member) has been submitted, it is sent to the county office for review and approval. Once approved and paid for, an email confirmation will be sent to the family email address. Payment by 4-H Check can take up to 2 weeks to process. An active membership status WILL NOT be granted until participation fees have been received and marked as paid.

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**NEW MEMBERS**
- Set up only one (1) FAMILY profile household on 4-H CONNECT.
- Write down and place in a secure location the email address and password for the account. Contact the local County Extension Office for assistance in resetting the account.
- Add individual youth and adult profiles (members) in your family profile. Adult/Youth and family profiles must be entered for an enrollment to be reviewed and accepted.

**RETURNING MEMBERS**
- **DO NOT** establish another family or member profile on 4-H CONNECT if you already have one in the system.
  - Contact the local County Extension Office for assistance with the email or password if forgotten.
  - When you access your profile to re-enroll REVIEW YOUR PROFILE VERY CAREFULLY. Incorrect information can create problems for you, your family, and the Extension Office when trying to communicate, accessing appropriate fees, acquiring school absences, etc.
Below are the new changes regarding BCYF. Please make sure you have a sign in sheet at each meeting and announce to all members to sign in before, during, and after the meeting.

- The BCYF has a NEW website in which everything will be posted including the new fair book, entry forms, superintendent’s names and phone numbers, score sheets, and other information:  
  http://agrilife.org/bellctyyouthfair/

- You MUST attend 2 meetings to participate in the BCYF. You MUST sign in on the sign in sheets for it to count.

- 2 meetings will be allowed from **August 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014** this year. No meetings will be allowed in January to use for the 2 meeting rule.

- All 4-H members MUST be enrolled by **October 31, 2014** to participate in the BCYF. However, the fee will go up after October 31st so do it quickly.

- Forms are not available until **January 1st**

- Homeschool Eligibility deadline: **January 16, 2015**. All Homeschool students must fill out an eligibility form and turn it in by the above deadline.
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<td>Leaders 4 Life Workshop, Ronald McDonald House, 9am-12pm</td>
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<td>BCYF Commercial Steer Weigh-In, 8:00am</td>
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<td>Livestock Project Workshop, 5pm-8pm, EXPO</td>
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<td>Turn in Hunter’s Spectacular Tickets Due to CEO</td>
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<td>Turn in Hunter’s Spectacular Tickets to Club Managers</td>
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<td>Baskets or money for Silent Auction due to CEO</td>
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<td>Hunter’s Spectacular Tickets Due to CEO (from Club Managers ONLY)</td>
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<td>County Council, 6:30pm, CEO</td>
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<td>Cakes Due for Hunter’s Spectacular, 9am-11am, Expo</td>
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<td>Hunter’s Spectacular, 6pm, Expo</td>
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