For more information about 4-H Projects, opportunities, programs, or activities, please call 817-884-1291 or visit us at 200 Taylor Street, Suite 500 (building entrance faces Burnett Street).

Cindy Bryant
County Extension Agent 4-H
Tarrant County 4-H
**County Council & Adult Leader Meetings**

The 4-H Youth County Council meetings are open to 4-H members age 9 and older. Meetings provide opportunities for youth to meet, share ideas, plan, and implement activities with other youth throughout the county. Each club is encouraged to send 2—3 representatives to each meeting. Club representatives typically include the President and 1—2 Council Delegates.

The youth have voted to meet on a monthly basis on the 4th Monday evenings.

The next County Council Meeting will be Monday, **October 24, 2011**, at 6:30 p.m. Please note the time change that will be in effect throughout 2011-2012.

Likewise, the Adult Leader Association meetings provide an opportunity for adult volunteers to meet, discuss ideas, and plan and implement activities that support the youth of the county. Each club is encouraged to send up to 3 adults to serve as voting representatives.

The next meeting scheduled for Adult Leaders is on **November 28, 2011** at 7:15 p.m.

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**2011-2012...An Exciting New 4-H Year**

As we look forward to the beginning of the new 4-H year, there is a lot of excitement as we anticipate the possibilities. Tarrant County is very fortunate to have such amazing youth who are eager to learn, lead, and serve their communities. We are equally fortunate to have wonderful adults who generously volunteer their time to support the children and provide opportunities for them to develop their talents and experience success.

In the upcoming year we will find a few changes.

- Photography contest date is earlier. Please refer to the calendar for any contest dates & details.
- Recordbooks - Additional information & training will be provided when completed details are received

- 4-H Participation fee is due upon enrollment. Local sponsorships are available for youth who need financial assistance with the fee. Please submit the request form as soon as possible.
- Livestock participants who plan to show in major shows must complete the online Quality Counts curriculum and pass the verification test.
- County Council youth have voted to conduct meetings on a monthly basis (4th Monday @ 6:30 pm)
- New opportunities for science-related projects
- New county government curriculum available for checkout – “Keys to the Courthouse”

The Cloverleaf newsletter will continue to be a source of information and Cheers recognition for youth activities. In an effort to provide the most up-to-date information possible, we will continue to utilize electronic format distribution methods. Therefore, it is important that each family provide a valid email address which is checked on a regular basis. Each registered family and Club Manager will receive the newsletter via e-mail. In addition a copy is posted online for reference.

I wish each of you a great year. Please feel free to contact our office anytime.

Cindy
National 4-H Week is our week to shine. National 4-H week takes place October 2-8, 2011. Each day of that week has been assigned a meaning and theme.

- **Monday, October 3, 2011** is about demonstrating and telling the story about how 4-H develops thinking and managing skills.
- **Tuesday, October 4, 2011** members will demonstrate their ability to relate and care for others.
- **Wednesday, October 5, 2011** will be National 4-H youth Science Day. This year, youth will discover how to build and test their own version of renewable energy technologies.
- **Thursday, October 6, 2011** will celebrate how 4-H members use their hands to better themselves and their communities.
- **Friday, October 7, 2011** the focus is on healthy living, for 4-H members as well as helping others in the community benefit from good health.
- **Saturday, October 8, 2011** 4-H members will focus on community service in the One Day 4-H Event. Each member and club is challenged to identify an issue affecting their community that they can assist with and then implement a community service project.

For more information go to:

http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/news/national4Hweek/index.php

### One Day Service Event

Several local 4-H clubs have announced their service projects in celebration of One Day and would like to invite others to join them. If you would like to help or need additional information, please contact the designated event manager.

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<td>Leah Milton</td>
<td><a href="mailto:AV8Law@verizon.net">AV8Law@verizon.net</a></td>
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<td>Robin Hays</td>
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<td>Tiffany Crawford</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dasie2007@yahoo.com">dasie2007@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>682-558-1232</td>
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**Operation Supply Drop**

**Dear Firefighters…..Thank you!**

Within hours of a “Call to Help” announcement by the State 4-H office, Tarrant County 4-H families began thinking of ways they could show support for firefighters. Passing the word throughout the clubs, they donated the requested liquids, snacks, and lip balm. Many wanted to personally express their thoughts of appreciation to the firemen so they wrote cards and letters of encouragement. Thanks to each of you for your kindness and generosity. Your donations filled two pickup trucks and a car.

The spokesmen for the fire departments said to pass along their appreciation to you as well. They were surprised by your outpouring of concern and very touched by your thoughtfulness.

**Trash Bash Cheers**

Several Tarrant County 4-H Clubs participated in the annual Trinity River cleanup event, called Trash Bash. Due to the drought, the low water level in the river revealed a lot of extra trash and debris which had been submerged for a lengthy time. 4-H volunteers (both youth & adults) removed the unsightly contaminants and disposed of it properly. Thanks to your efforts, the river is much cleaner and we will all enjoy the fall rains.


GREAT JOB !!!

**Cheers**

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“Courage doesn’t always roar. Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying “I will try again tomorrow”.

Mary Ann Radmacher

“Courage is the discovery that you may not win; and trying when you know you can lose.”

Tom Krause

“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.”

John Quincy Adams
Food Challenge Contest

The 4-H Food challenge is another way 4-H members can exhibit the knowledge and skills they gain in the 4-H Foods & Nutrition Project. The Food Challenge is modeled after competitions such as the Food Network’s Iron Chef. Teams create dishes using only a predetermined number and amount of ingredients. From these ingredients team members must develop a recipe and prepare the dish. Teams then make a presentation to a judging panel, explaining the preparation steps, serving size, nutritional value, and cost of the dish.

Teams must provide their own equipment, as specified in the Food Challenge guidelines. At the start of the contest, each team is given a set of ingredients and a clue to help them determine what dish to prepare. Each set of ingredients is based on a recipe that fits one of the following categories: main dish, fruit and vegetable, bread and cereal, nutritious snacks. Teams are randomly assigned to a category, which is announced at the start of the contest. In addition to preparing the recipe, team members must also research the nutrients in the dish, determine the benefits of these nutrients, and analyze the cost of the dish. Teams have 40 minutes to do this.

Teams then make presentations to the judges. At least three team members must have speaking roles in the presentation. Judges may also ask questions of the team members.

Our Tarrant County Food Show Challenge will be conducted at TCU on Saturday, November 5th. The entry forms are due October 7th. Cost is $12 per team. More information and entry forms will be coming soon to the Tarrant County 4-H website.

County Photography Contest

Photography encourages communication through visual media. With growing popularity of the project, additional classes have been added to this year’s contest. Photo entries are due to the 4-H office by November 7, 2011.

2011 Classes:
- People
- Animals/Wildlife
- Animals/Domestic
- Marine/Aquatic
- Elements of Design
- Nature/Landscape
- Details & Macro
- Digital Darkroom
- Theme (Trains)
- Night Photography
- Food
- Dominant Color
- Catch All
- Storyboard

Basic Rules:
- All photos must have been taken since June 12, 2011
- Limit: 1 entry per class
- Size: true 8 x 10, mounted on thin foam board or mount board
- Must be able to provide original digital format file upon request
- The 4-H office reserves the right to refuse inappropriate entries.
- Blue, red, and white quality awards will be based on score sheet criteria.
- Each entry must have completed label affixed to the center back of photo.

Please refer to the Tarrant County 4-H website for complete rules.
**County Food Show Contest**

The Tarrant County 4-H Food Show, where members showcase their food & nutrition entries, provides a unique opportunity for youth. In this contest, members prepare a favorite dish, display it, and tell the judges about it.

This contest will be held **November 19, 2011** at the Extension office from 9:30-1:30 p.m. Entries are due to the 4-H office by **November 7, 2011**.

Entry forms will be posted soon on the Extension 4-H website under Current Events.

**Quiz Bowl Contests**

4-H Quiz Bowl contests help members enhance and demonstrate their knowledge and skills in a competitive setting while practicing teamwork. Team members learn critical-thinking abilities, develop poise, and learn to express themselves concisely.

Each Quiz Bowl team consists of 3 – 4 members from the same age division. During the contest, two teams compete against each other, answering questions on subject matter topics. Three types of questions may be involved: individual, toss-up, and bonus. In the toss-up round, the moderator asks a question and members “buzz in” when they know the answer. The first person to press the buzzer has the opportunity to answer the question. At the end of the contest, the team with the highest score is announced as the winner.

As members study project materials and practice for the contest, they encourage and motivate each other as they strengthen their teams.

4-H has a variety of quiz bowl contest opportunities from which members may choose. Examples include: Nutrition Quiz Bowl; Horse Quiz Bowl; or Beef Quiz Bowl. The district contests are on the same day, so youth must select the one team on which they would like to participate.

**Nutrition Quiz Bowl:** The Nutrition Quiz Bowl helps participants increase their knowledge of basic nutrition, consumer information, food and kitchen safety, food preparation skills and storage, and nutrition and health.

**Horse Quiz Bowl:** The Horse Quiz Bowl helps members increase their knowledge of basic care, nutrition, safety, anatomy & physiology, showing, etc.

Tarrant County teams are forming now. If you are interested in either of these opportunities, speak with your club manager. If there are not enough youth (of the same age division) to form a club team, contact the 4-H office to see if there is a county-wide team forming. Meanwhile, begin studying.

Additional information may be found on the website. The registration deadline for the district contest is **November 11**. The actual contest will be in Commerce on **December 3**.
**Consumer Decision Making**

The Consumer Decision Making Contest is a competitive event that enables 4-H’ers to practice making decisions based on information about a situation and four available marketplace options. This contest is an opportunity to practice marketplace knowledge and skills and to compare personal decisions with the decisions from a panel of judges who are knowledgeable about today’s marketplace and its various goods and services.

There are two parts to the Consumer Decision Making Contest. The first part is to place or rank order the options. There will be four articles or options of one kind to rank. This group of items is called a class. Study guides will be available at [http://fcs.tamu.edu/money/your_money/cdm/index.php](http://fcs.tamu.edu/money/your_money/cdm/index.php). These study guides will provide research and factual information about the classes.

For each class, a buying problem or situation is presented. Contestants assume the role of consumers in the situation. Contestants will base their decision on information learned through the study guides, their participation in the 4-H Consumer Life Skills Project, and other background knowledge and consumer experiences.

One product in each class will best meet the consumer needs described or assumed by the situation statement; another product will be almost as desirable, and the other two will meet the standards to a lesser degree. Ranking four items in order, according to how well they meet the situation, is called placing.

The second part of the contest will have individual contestants explain why they decided on a certain placing. This is called giving oral reasons.

The District CDM contest will be on [December 3, 2011](http://fcs.tamu.edu/money/your_money/cdm/index.php) at TAMU in Commerce.

For more information regarding this contest please contact Marian Ross at 817-884-1294.

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**Contest Eligibility Forms Why Do We Need One?**

Many members new to 4-H are unfamiliar with the eligibility form. For each contest that 4-H has during the school year 4-H members must turn in an eligibility form. This form is taken to the member’s school for the principal to sign. The form serves two purposes. Its main objective is to show that the member has passing grades and is eligible to participate in extracurricular activities. The form also assists in requesting an excused absence for competitions. Please remember that school policies for granting excused absences may vary among districts.

These forms must be submitted by public, private and home school members. The forms are due no earlier than one prior to the event.
**Junior Leadership Retreat**

The Junior Leadership Retreat will be held on **November 11-13, 2011** at the 4-H Conference Center in Brownwood. Registration is open and can be accessed from the 4-H Center website [texas4hcen-ter.tamu.edu](http://texas4hcen-ter.tamu.edu). Just click on the Register Now button. Deadline to register is **November 4**.

Junior Leadership Retreat is the epitome of “youth teaching youth”. Members of the Texas 4-H Council serve as the coordinators of the weekend leadership retreat and facilitate all of the concurrent workshops. Junior and Intermediate level 4-H members have an opportunity on a state-wide basis to begin networking with other 4-H members while learning about new and exciting 4-H projects and opportunities. This year’s focus will be on Healthy Lifestyles, Outdoor Challenge, Record Keeping, Housing and Agricultural Products.

State 4-H Council members take pride in showcasing their creativity at the Saturday Night Theme Dance-stay tuned for the announcement! You will definitely want to bring a costume. (The theme will be announced October 3; plenty of time to create your own design.)

The cost is $105 for youth, and $70 for adult chaperones (includes two nights lodging, four meals, two evening snacks and program fees).

**Growing Your Horticulture Project Workshop**

Laura Miller, Tarrant County Extension Agent in Horticulture, will be presenting a workshop for 4-H youth and parents on 11/3/2011 @ 7:00 p.m. Participants will learn plant characteristics and needs, as well as how to select plants appropriate for containerized projects.

4-H youth participants who RSVP by the deadline will receive potting soil, courtesy of Scotts Miracle Gro. Please RSVP to 817-884-1291 or nfswindle@ag.tamu.edu no later than October 30.

**Gold Star Banquet**

The Gold Star Award is the highest county achievement award that a 4-H member can receive. Not only do the recipients excel in project work, but they also exemplify the positive character traits for which the 4-H program is known. This year, three members were selected to receive this honor.

These members will be honored at the District IV 4-H Gold Star Banquet on **October 18** at the TAMU Commerce Campus.

Additionally, one local 4-H volunteer will be recognized for her service and support of the 4-H program. This year’s recipient is:

**Kate Atwood**

**Megan Maynard**

**Sara Titus**

**Stephanie Scevers**

Please join us in congratulating these outstanding youth and adult.
BARN TALK WITH KEN

TCJLS Broiler Order

If you plan on participating in the poultry contest of the Tarrant County Junior Livestock Show it is time to order your broilers. Orders for broilers are due on Monday, November 14, 2011. The cost is $1.50 each with a minimum order of 10 broilers per exhibitor payable by check or money order (NO CASH). Please make payment out to Tarrant County Junior Livestock Association.

If you have any questions regarding the TCJLS broiler order please contact Ken Johnson at 817-884-1946 or by e-mail at kd-johnson@tamu.edu.

State Lamb & Goat Validation

Validation will occur on October 25, 2011 from 3-6 pm at the Crowley Ag Barn. If you have any questions please contact Ken Johnson at 817-884-1946 or by e-mail at Kd-Johnson@tamu.edu

IMPORTANT 4-H LIVESTOCK NEWS

Starting in 2012, Quality Counts verification will be required for all 4-H and FFA members exhibiting livestock-market and/or breeding animals at major livestock shows in Texas.

The shows that will require the verification in 2012 are Fort Worth, San Antonio, Houston, Star of Texas in Austin, San Angelo, Sandhills in Odessa, State Fair and Heart O’ Texas Fair in Waco.

The verification process requires that an exhibitor pass an online test that measures their knowledge on quality assurance and character education items. Online learning modules and the verification test are available at http://qualitycounts.tamu.edu.

Upon passing the verification test the youth exhibitor will be given a unique verification number. This number is required at the time when making an official entry into a Texas major stock show for 2012. So beginning with the livestock entry day in November if you plan to enter any of the major spring shows you must have been verified and received a number.

If you have any questions please call or e-mail Ken Johnson at 817-884-1946 or kd-johnson@tamu.edu

STATE FAIR OF TEXAS

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, October 11, 2011 for the 3rd annual Ag Awareness Day event! Although specific events are in the early planning stages, we will once again be hosting a food drive and a new AgriQuest competition!

Last year’s event was a record-breaker in both attendance and pounds of food collected. 2011 marks the 125th Anniversary of the State Fair of Texas - imagine the impact if each and every club/chapter attending brought at least 125 pounds of food and 125 youth attendees! The results would be astounding!

We look forward to seeing each and every one of you at Agriculture Awareness Day, Tuesday, October 11, 2011!
We’re on the web, click on 4-H at http://tarrant.tamu.edu

October 2011
2-8 National 4-H Week
4 4-H Week Proclamation
5 4-H Science Day
8 One Day Service Event
11 State Fair Agriculture Awareness Day
18 Gold Star Banquet
24 County Council Meeting
25 State Lamb & Goat Validation

November 2011
3 Horticulture Workshop
5 Food Challenge Contest
7 County Food Show Entries due
7 County Photography Contest Entries due
14 TCILS Broiler orders due
19 County Food Show
28 County Council Meeting
28 Adult Leader Meeting

Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, services, or accommodation in order to participate in meetings or events are encouraged to contact Cindy Bryant CEA-4-H at 817-884-1291 ten days prior to the event.