

BELL COUNTY 4-H NEWS~JANUARY 2012



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 2012

January 2: CEO Closed

January 3, 11, 23, 30: Consumer, 6pm, CEO

January 3 & 12: Rabbit Clinic, 6:30pm, Expo

January 6-8: Texas Teen Retreat, Brownwood, TX

January 10: Dog Certification Forms due to CEO

January 10: Rabbit Validation, 5:30pm-7:30pm, Expo

January 16: CEO Closed

January 16: Food Tour to Austin, 9am, meet at CEO

January 17: Consumer Contest, 5:30pm, CEO

January 23 & 30: Ride Nights-Speed, Expo

January 24&31: Ride Nights-Performance, Expo

January 24: County Council Meeting, 6:30pm, CEO

January 28: Swine Carcass Weigh-In, 9-10am, Expo

January 28: Weigh-Out Commercial Steers, 8am, Evans Ranch

January 31: MAB Meeting, 7pm, CEO

February 2012

February 4-11: Bell County Youth Fair, Expo

February 17-18: San Antonio Consumer Contest, SA

February 20: CEO Closed

February 25: Salsa Workshop, 9-11am, CEO

February 27: Clothing Workshop, 5-7pm, CEO

February 28: Consumer 6-8pm, CEO

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Bell County 4-H Website

The 4-H website is an excellent way to keep up with all upcoming 4-H events & to download necessary forms. Please find time to glance at the website, it is such a convenient way to stay informed.

<http://agrilife.org/bell4h/>

If you need more information on 4-H Events & Forms or just general 4-H questions, please contact the CEO at 254-933-5305.

Do not FORGET to Order
your Bell County 4-H
T-Shirt/Hoodie in time for
the BCYF!

Show your support for Bell County 4-H and call
or come by the CEO to fill out an order form.

Hoodies are \$20.00 & T-shirts are \$10.00



4-H County Council

<u>MONTH/DATE</u>	<u>THEME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
January 24	"China"	Fashion Presentation
February 21	"France"	Fair Dress-Up
March 20	"Ireland"	Texas Congress
April 24	"United States"	Officer Elections
May, June, July	***** NO MEETING *****	

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 24 , 2011 at 6.30 p.m. at the County Extension Office Meeting Room. The council is continuing it's trip around the world. Next stop **China**. Dress for a Chinese New Year Celebration. All 4H members and leaders are welcome to join in the adventure. Remember that each club needs to be represented by two delegates (the president and a council delegate), they are the voting delegates for the club. There are games, contests and special programs for each meeting. Also, learn about what other clubs are doing and about the upcoming county 4H programs. There are opportunities at each destination.

Consumer Decision Making

Consumer Decision Making is a great way to learn how to shop better! The Consumer project's first meeting will be held November 7, at 6pm, at the Extension Office Meeting Room! Make sure and come and learn all about the project and what it has to offer. We will hopefully be discussing the new classes for this year and preparing for the project!

Dates for consumer are as follows: (Dates set already due to full meeting room schedule and availability)

January:

Consumer Project Meeting, 6pm, CEO: January 3, January 11, January 23 & January 30.

Consumer County Contest, 6pm, CEO: January 17

February:

Consumer Project Meeting, 2-4pm, CEO: February 28

San Antonio Consumer Contest- February 17-18



SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES



All Scholarship information/requirements and applications are available by going to: <http://agrillife.org/bell4h/4-h-activities/scholarships/> Please make sure and review this information. Many deadlines are coming up in January and February.



2012 Texas Teen Retreat

The Texas 4-H Conference Center is pleased to announce plans for the first event of 2012 -- The Texas Teen Retreat to be held January 6-8, 2012 at the Texas 4-H Conference Center in Brownwood, TX! This retreat will be an excellent opportunity for senior 4-H members ages 13-19 to learn numerous basic personal skills and leadership techniques. ! Cost for this retreat is Youth-\$105.00, Adult Chaperones \$70.00. If you are interested in participating in this retreat please register on the TX 4-H Center website. All youth must be accompanied by the same gender chaperone. No transportation is provided.

Important Dates for Bell County Youth Fair & Major Shows

Rabbit Validation	Jan. 10, 2012	5:30- 7:30 pm- Expo
Houston/Star Broilers In	Jan. 27, 2012	Call in for time
Weigh-Out Commercial Steers	Jan. 28, 2012	8am- Evans Ranch
Swine Carcass Weigh-In	Jan. 28, 2012	9:00-10:00am- Expo
Commercial Steer Recordbook Due	Feb. 3, 2012	BY 5:00 P.M.
Bell County Youth Fair	Feb. 4-11, 2012	Expo
<u>Horse Ride Nights:</u> Performance- Jan. 24th & 31st, 2012 ~ Speed- Jan. 23rd & 30th, 2012		



Food Tour



The Food Tour has been moved to June due to limited/no tours on a holiday.

BCYF Rabbit Validation



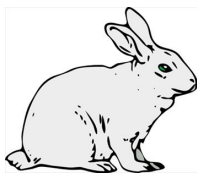
Rabbit Validation will be on Tuesday, January 10th, 2012 from 5:30-7:30pm at the Expo Center. The fee will be \$1.00 per rabbit. If you have any questions please contact Pam Reavis at 254-933-5305.

2012 County Camp

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

Registration forms will be available soon on the Bell County 4-H website!





Rabbit Clinic



Bell County 4-H will host 2 rabbit clinics in January. That's right, 2 rabbit clinics! **The first will be held January 3 at 6:30 pm at the Bell County Expo Center Special Events room** (upstairs). This clinic will focus only on Breeding Rabbits. We will discuss breeds, common disqualifications, care and health, showmanship, and rules specific to the Bell County Youth Fair Breeding Rabbit Show.

The second rabbit clinic will be held January 12, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. at the Bell County Expo Center (upstairs). This clinic will be dedicated to fryer rabbits or meat pens. We will discuss feeding, weight management, fur quality, health, supplies needed, disqualifications, selection, and check-in procedures for the Bell County Youth Fair.



Hot and Spicy Salsa Event

Come one come all to the newest Food and Nutrition workshop. At this fun filled event we will be learning how to make several different types of salsa with several different ingredients. We will also be having a salsa contest! If you would like to compete you will need to bring your own quart jar full of **HOMEMADE** salsa. We will have a judge go around to taste and judge the salsas as well as have a kids choice award where you can vote for your favorite salsa. While we are waiting for the judging to be complete, we have a little surprise that all ages will enjoy. **The Hot and Spicy Salsa Event will be at the County Extension Office at 9:00-11:00 am on the 25th of Feb.** The cost to come to this workshop will be \$10 but you can enter the salsa contest for \$5 per salsa entry and this includes your workshop fee! All registrations and fees will be due to the CEO by Feb. 13th. Salsa categories include mild, hot, and fruit salsa. Prizes will be given to the best salsa in each category, one over all, and kid's choice.



Registration forms can be found on the 4-H website by going to:

<http://agrilife.org/bell4h/projects/food-and-nutrition-project/hot-and-spicy-salsa-event/>

Hope to see you there!

Save the date!

February 27, 2012 ~ 5:00-7:00 ~Plastic Canvas Crafts ~

Taught by Clothing and Textiles Board



The 3rd Annual Cowboy Christmas Ball

On Saturday December 10, 2011, we held our third annual Cowboy Christmas Ball featuring Michael Martin Murphey at the Expo Center. This event was sponsored by the Bell County Youth Fair Executive Board, Bell County Youth Fair Scholarship Committee, the Texas AgriLife Extension, and the Bell County Expo Center. All the benefits from this concert event are being used towards the Bell County Youth Fair Scholarship Fund.

This third year was a an even greater success than 2010. We thank everyone who came out and supported our efforts to help raise funds for the scholarship program. Michael Martin Murphey highlighted the night with his amazing musical talent and entertainment acts. The food, silent auction, and dancing was enjoyed by all.

This Scholarship is open for all graduating high school seniors in Bell County who have participated in the Youth Fair and have shown commitment to the Fair, their local clubs, their schools & their communities. These "Life-Changing" scholarships range from \$2,000.00-\$4,000.00 per year and can be used at both a 4-year university and a 2-year college or higher educational program. Applications will be available in January with Pam Reavis in the Extension Office or on the Extension website (<http://bell.agrilife.org>) and are due in April.

The goals that we set for our third year with the Cowboy Christmas Ball were met and then some. With the paperwork still coming in, our final monies raised for the Scholarship Program in 2010 should exceed \$40,000.00! A BIG thank you again to all who made this event possible and who came out and enjoyed the performance with us. Special thanks goes to our 4-H Ambassadors: Emma Coffman, Katherine Wood, Whitney Bushing, Tyler Ramthun, Bailey Kasberg and Jennifer Ramthun. In addition, thanks for the wonderful photos that were taken by the Coffman Family.. A link to the photos can be found on the Bell County 4-H website <http://agrilife.org/bell4h/>. A special shout out goes to Dakota Fleming, former 4-Her and 2011 scholarship recipient for making us all proud with her heart felt comments to the guests, she was terrific!!

Bell County Youth Fair Ride Nights

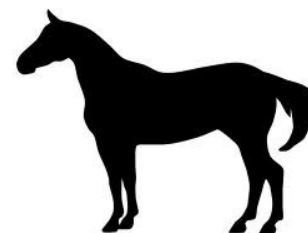
Sponsored by Texas AgriLife Extension Service & Bell 4-H Horse Club

The official ride nights are correct in the BCYF rule book. Please notice the following schedule:

January 24th and 31st are Performance nights.

January 23rd and 30th are Speed event nights.

Speed horses only on Speed nights, Performance horses only on Performance nights.



Rules for ride nights are included on page 6 of the Bell County Youth Fair Horse Show (BLUE) Catalogue, so please be familiar with them. Ride night events are only for the Contestants registered for competition in the Bell County Youth Fair Horse Show. Only their horses that are the primary or alternate horses signed up for the events in 2012. We will be checking for Coggins so have copies of current negative Coggins test results on all the horses you bring. Contestants must register each night and present Coggins paperwork to ride in the arenas.

We do not allow alcohol or smoking at anytime in the barn and no alcohol can be consumed in parking lot. Because this is an equine event, absolutely no dogs will be allowed on the grounds.

- We need every one of you to focus on safety.
- We will have EMS on site at every ride night this year from 6:00 to 10:00.
- Security Staff will be present from 6:00 to 10:00.
- We will again have inside tie up area available along the West side of the C barn arena.
- Since we have many horses that are not familiar with each other and riders that may not be familiar with crowded type conditions, we would like to again have appointed safety monitors for each night. The idea would be that the safety monitor would be stationed in the congested areas and be responsible for helping the youth understand how to make safe decisions. We are looking for volunteers that will be safety monitors. Please report any unsafe conditions to them. If you would like to volunteer e-mail or call Micah at the CEO.
- The goal is that the ride nights help beginners and newer entrants feel comfortable, help them have fun and give them confidence to compete in future events. At the same time we will strive to provide a safe place for the more experienced riders to get ride time and practice. The ride nights will only be as good as we collectively make them, so your help is needed.

Bell County Youth Fair Superintendents...

by Randall Rakowitz

The Bell County Youth Fair is the largest 4-H, FFA, and FCCLA exhibition in our County. Kids from every corner of the county come out to show their hard work on projects they have. This large undertaking is only possible through the many volunteers and superintendents who help put the event on each year. I just wanted to take time to remind our exhibitors and their families of your responsibilities and steps to having a good Fair Experience.

READ YOUR FAIR BOOK! It is your responsibility as an exhibitor and as parents to know what is in the book. That is why we print a copy for every family to have one. The BCYF operations board of directors works many long hours to ensure that the rules are fair and written so that people who read it, can easily understand it.

It doesn't matter whether you are and FCS Exhibitor, Farm Shop, or if you show animals, there are rules and guidelines in place to encourage competition. Know the rules that apply to your division. If you don't understand, call the superintendent of that division, prior to showing up. These volunteers would rather have you call them and ask questions, than to have to disqualify your project when you get there. Many superintendent's phone numbers are listed in the book.

KNOW THE SCHEDULE! With a show our size (more than 6000 entries), we operate on a tight schedule, trying to utilize our limited space and volunteer hours in the most efficient way possible. We spend eight full days with activities going on into long hours of the night. Quite frankly, it is expected that if you took the time to enter your project, work on your project, and now show up with your project, that you know what the schedule is for your division. Parents, you may have to keep the book in your pocket if your kids are involved in multiple activities as most exhibitors are these days, just to stay on schedule. Saying "nobody told you " is not a valid excuse.

KNOW YOUR SUPERINTENDENTS! The Bell County Youth Fair Superintendents are approved each year by our Operations Board. They are chosen because they have knowledge of how our Fair works and understand the rules. Each and every one of them is a volunteer, who is here because they support the kids and the projects they have. They can answer your questions, interpret rules, help you if you are a first-timer, and most of them spend 30-40 hours or more at our Fair preparing or volunteering to help you! Many of them take vacation days to come help! They are not only the ones to gripe to, but to say "Thank YOU"! Many, many families go through the Fair each year and have no problems or issues. To those families: SAY THANK YOU! We couldn't do it without them. And to the parents, teach your kids to thank a volunteer! We need future generations to continue this great tradition.

With that, I want to say THANK YOU to each and every one of our superintendents, volunteers, parents, leaders, and contributors! I look forward to a great 2012 Bell County Youth Fair.

ATTENTION PARENTS, LEADERS, and CLUB MANAGERS!

January 31st is an important meeting for MAB, the Membership Advisory Board. This meeting is for all parents and leaders. We also highly encourage all club managers and assistant club managers to come! We will be discussing the Hunter's Spectacular.

Please come to the MAB meeting on January 31st at 7pm in the County Extension
Office Meeting Room to help plan the Hunter's Spectacular!



Improving Lives. Improving Texas.

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BELL COUNTY 4-H FOCUS

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Randall Rakowitz".

Randall Rakowitz
County Extension Agent
Natural Resources



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Micah Holcombe".

Micah Holcombe
County Extension Agent
4-H and Youth Development

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



January



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 	2 CEO Closed	3 Consumer, 6pm, CEO Rabbit Clinic, 6:30pm, Expo	4	5	6 Texas Teen Retreat, Brownwood 	7
8 	9	10 Dog Certification Forms due to CEO Rabbit Validation, 5:30-7:30pm, Expo	11 Consumer, 6pm, CEO	12 Rabbit Clinic, 6pm, Expo	13	14
15	16 CEO Closed	17 Consumer Contest, 5:30pm, CEO	18	19	20	21
22	23 Consumer, 6pm, CEO Ride Night, Speed, Expo	24 Ride Nights, Performance, Expo County Council Meeting, 6:30pm, CEO	25	26	27	28 Swine Carcass Weigh-In, 9-10am, Expo Weigh-Out Commercial Steers, 8am, Evans Ranch
29	30 Consumer, 6pm, CEO Ride Night, Speed, Expo	31 Ride Nights, Performance, Expo MAB Meeting, 7pm, CEO				