

December 2017 Focus

Bell County Staff:

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Cooperative Extension
Family & Consumer
Sciences

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4-H Program Assistant

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County Extension Agent
Natural Resources

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County Extension Agent
4-H & Youth
Development

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Family & Community
Health

BLT Assistant

Lyle Zoeller

County Extension Agent
Agriculture

Merry Christmas!!

**Thank you to all of the 4-H'ers, parents, leaders,
and volunteers for another successful year!**

**Never forget that your work has all been part of an effort
"to make the best better"**



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4-H Club Managers

BCYF Food Container Pick Up

Attention Club Managers! You can start picking up food containers on **January 2nd** at the CEO for your participants competing in the 2018 BCYF Food Division. Our business hours are Monday-Friday 8 am -12:00 & 1:00-5:00 p.m. This is for Club Managers ONLY!

Membership Advisory Board Finance Meeting

If you are interested in serving on the Membership Advisory Board Finance Committee, then please come to the CEO on Monday, January 8th. We will be reviewing the finances starting at 6:00 p.m. We strongly encourage a representative from each club attend this meeting!

Membership Advisory Board Meeting

All MAB officers will need to attend the next Membership Advisory Board Meeting on **Tuesday, January 16th** at the CEO. Meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. We encourage any 4-H Adult Volunteer to attend.



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County Council & Ambassadors



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County Council Meeting

WHEN: Tuesday, January 9th **WHERE:** County Extension Office (CEO)

START TIME: 6:30 p.m.

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.

The community service project will be the collection of stuffed animals for the children's hospital. Bring an UNUSED stuffed animal as a donation. Any size welcomed.

The program for the evening is What Not to Wear. We will cover appropriate attire for 4-H members for different events.

Council/Ambassador Christmas Party

The County Council Officer and Ambassador Christmas party is scheduled for **Thursday, December 21st** at the CEO. \$10.00 and under unisex gift for Exchange Game. NO CHINESE CHRISTMAS GAG GIFTS.

Time is from 1:00 -3:00 p.m.



Upcoming Events



NEW Bell County 4-H T-Shirt is Here!

The NEW Bell County 4-H T-Shirts are in! Cost is \$15 per shirt.

We have the following sizes available:

*Youth Medium	*Youth Large	*Small	*Medium	*Large
*XL	*2XL	*3XL	*4XL	

Stop by the office to purchase your shirt! Checks or cash only. Checks can be made payable to Bell 4-H. Contact the CEO if you have any questions.

Graduating Seniors

Scholarship applications are becoming available. Make sure and watch the newsletter and the Bell County 4-H Website for scholarship application deadlines. The website is always being updated with new scholarships and deadlines.

The rough draft deadline for the Texas 4-H Scholarship Application is to Sheryl no later than **Friday, January 12th**. FINAL application is due in the CEO no later than **Monday, January 22nd!** Don't hesitate on asking for help or if you have any questions regarding scholarships.

Ag Product ID Practices

Ag Product ID practices are over for the fall contests. Practices for the Spring contests will resume in January. New members are welcomed to participate at any time. Please contact Michael Canales at 541-6293 or email at: mcanales1@aol.com for more information.

Clover Kids Meeting Schedule

January 20th, February 17th, March 17th, April 21st, May 19th
2-4 p.m. @ Temple Public Library McLane Room

Contact Dawn Brown at bc4hcloverkids@yahoo.com for more information.

Texas 4-H Dog Validation

4-H Dog projects must be validated in January to be eligible to enter the Texas 4-H Dog Show. The Texas 4-H Dog Show takes place July 13-15, 2018, location TBD. Be looking for the validation deadline in the January 4-H newsletter!

Validation instruction can be found at: <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/17dogValidationInstructions.pdf>



FCS Project News



~District 8 Food Show/Food Challenge Contest~

For those members competing in the District 8 Food Challenge and Food Show on **Wednesday, December 13th**, Sheryl and Jackie will register your child in the appropriate contest(s). Be checking your emails for more information on arrival and check in times for that day.
Good luck to all Bell County 4-H members competing!

Nutrition Quiz Bowl Practices

Nutrition Quiz Bowl is a quiz game that tests teams of 3-4 on their knowledge of food and nutrition, diseases, laws/regulations, etc.. Up against the clock, the 4-Hers buzz in to answer a question and earn or lose points accordingly. Competitions are held in a tournament-system bracket. Practices will take place:

December: 5, 12, 19

6:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church 702 House, Belton

Contact Barbara Wood for more information.

Consumer Decision Making Practices

Consumer Decision Making is a project where you will learn how to compare prices, look for quality, and make purchases based on facts and research. This improves your money management skills, smart purchasing skills, and decision-making skills. Practices will take place at the First Baptist Church 702 House in Belton starting at 5:30 p.m.

December: 5, 12, 19

Contact Barbara Wood for more information.

Photography Project

4-H Photography Project

- **March (Spring Break), Date TBD-** Still Life & Dominant Color @ CEO
- **Sunday, June 10th**—Texas 4-H Photography Community Service—NWTf Women in the Outdoors Event
In Davilla, TX
Contact Elizabeth Coffman at familycoffman@aol.com if you have any questions.

Texas 4-H Photography Workshop

Saturday, Dec 9th, Registration begins at 9:00 Bell County CEO

Open to 4-Hers in 7th through 12 grade

Limited to 40 participants: Register through 4-H Connect. \$20.00 registration fee covers materials and lunch.

Must bring a DSLR camera

For intermediate to advanced photographers

For those 4-Hers that attended Texas 4-H Photography Workshop I, this is the second requirement for you to obtain your **JUNIOR MASTER 4-H PHOTOGRAPHER** certification.

Contact Elizabeth or Christian Coffman if you have any questions: familycoffman@aol.com, 254-718-1332.

Texas 4-H Photography Field Trip

December 29 & 30— Architecture Photography AND Plant Photography field trip to San Antonio

FRIDAY

San Jose Mission Information Center

6701 San Jose Dr, San Antonio, TX 78214

Meet time: 9:30 a.m.

Friday Activities:

- Architecture photography on the Mission Trail – San Jose, Concepcion, Alamo (Free)
- Riverwalk Cruise (\$)
- Market Square (Free)
- La Villita (Free)
- Night photography on the Riverwalk (Free)

SATURDAY

Japanese Tea Gardens Entrance

3853 N St Mary's St, San Antonio, TX 78212

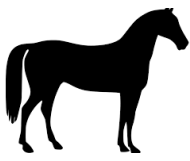
Meet time: 9:30 a.m.

Saturday Activities:

- Plant photography at the Japanese Tea Garden (Free)
- Animal Photography at the San Antonio Zoo (\$)
- Other activities time dependent

ALL youth must be accompanied by an adult!

For more information, contact Elizabeth or Christian Coffman familycoffman@aol.com or 254-718-1332.



Livestock Project News



~Poultry Exhibitors~

BCYF Roaster: Birds will arrive on December 8th and can be picked up between 3:30-5:30 p.m.

BCYF Broilers: Birds will arrive on December 22nd and can be picked up between 3:30-5:30 p.m.

San Antonio, Houston & Austin Broilers: Pick up will be sometime in January. Look for more information from Whitney Grantham.

Livestock Judging

Livestock Judging practices will resume in January. If you are interested in participating, contact Whitney Grantham at whitney.grantham@ag.tamu.edu.

San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo School Tour Guide Opportunity

The San Antonio Livestock Exposition is looking for enthusiastic, responsible students in grades 9—12 to participate in this leadership opportunity. Tours guides are given the opportunity to educate school children about agriculture and its importance to our daily lives.

Tour dates are assigned on a first come, first serve basis.

Contact Sheryl Long no later than December 15, 2017 if you want to participate.

Rodeo Austin School Tour Guide Opportunity

Rodeo Austin is looking for youth tour guides to lead school age children to educational exhibits around the rodeo grounds. The dates for this year's tours are March 19-23, 2018.

These volunteers should be age 13 and up. The tour guides will be assigned classes and tour routes. The helpers will assist School Tour Committee members with other duties to make this event enjoyable and successful for everyone.

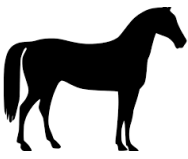
Contact Sheryl Long no later than December 15, 2017 if you want to participate.

Vet Science Meeting

The next Vet Science Meeting will take place December 13th at the County Extension Office. The meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. Contact Whitney for more information.

Project Visits

As we approach the Bell County Youth Fair and Major Stock Show season, Whitney Grantham will be available to come take a look at your projects. **Please call the Extension Office to schedule a visit.**



Livestock Project News



Bell County Showmanship Workshops & Weigh Day

WHEN: Sunday, December 3, 2017

WHERE: Bell County Expo, Livestock Barn

TIME: 2:00 — 4:00 p.m.

2:00—2:30 p.m.—Arrival

2:30—3:00—Workshops

3:00—4:00 p.m.—Practice & Weigh

Join us for an ALL species showmanship practice at the Bell County Expo Center. If you have a project for the youth fair or major shows, this will be a great opportunity to get in the ring. Agents, Ag Teachers, and project mentors will be available for one on one showmanship practice. The livestock scales will also be set up for weighing your projects.

If you have any further questions please contact Whitney at Whitney.Grantham@ag.tamu.edu or 933-5305.

BCYF Events

Bell County Youth Fair

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 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://agrillife.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, 2017 to December 31, 2017** this year. No meetings will be allowed in January to use for the 2 meeting rule.
- All 4-H members **MUST** be enrolled by **December 6, 2017** to participate in the BCYF. \

BCYF Events

BCYF Entry Deadlines

4-H members participating in the Bell County Youth Fair must submit a completed BCYF Entry Form to your Club Manager by **THEIR ESTABLISHED** deadline! Entry forms **will not** be accepted by individuals at the County Extension Office!

IMPORTANT BCYF Photography Dates

- All photos must be taken after March 1, 2017
- Photos will be submitted online at <http://agrilife.org/bellctyyouthfair> beginning January 3, 2018 to no later than 5 p.m. on January 16, 2018.
- **READ** the photography section in the catalog!

BCYF Rabbit Validation

When: Sunday, January 7, 2018

Where: Bell County Expo Center

Time: 3:00—5:00 p.m.

Cost: \$1 per rabbit

Contact Pam Reavis if you have any questions.

BCYF Horse Exhibitor Ride Nights

Speed Events: January 22, January 29, February 1—6:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.

Performance Events: January 23, January 30, 6:00 –9:00 p.m. & February 2—3:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.

Carcass Swine Weight In

Carcass Swine Weigh in for the Bell County Youth Fair will be January 28, 2018 from 1:00—2:00 p.m. at the Bell County Expo Center. Swine must weigh a minimum of 220 pounds and a maximum of 290 pounds at the time of weigh in.

Commercial Steer Weigh Out

Commercial Steer Weigh Out will take place at Evans Ranch on January 27, 2018 starting at 8 a.m. Recordbooks will be due by February 1st to the County Extension Office by 5:00 p.m.

BCYF Home School Eligibility

The Homeschool Eligibility deadline is January 12, 2018. All Homeschool students must fill out an eligibility form and turn it in by the deadline.

NO FORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE OR ACCEPTED TILL AFTER JANUARY 1, 2018.

Go to <http://agrilife.org/bell4h/4-henrollment-guidelines/eligibility> to fill out your form.

Important Dates

December 2017

- December 3: Showmanship Workshop & Weigh Day
- December 5: NQB Practice
- December 5: CDM Practice
- December 6: LAST DAY to enroll in 4-H for BCYF requirements
- December 8: BCYF Roaster Pick Up
- December 9: Master Photography Program
- December 12: NQB Practice
- December 12: CDM Practice
- December 13: Vet Science Meeting
- December 13: D8 Food Challenge & Food Show
- December 15: S.A.L.E Tour Guide Deadline
- December 15: Rodeo Austin Tour Guide Deadline
- December 19: NQB Practice
- December 19: CDM Practice
- December 21: Council/Ambassador Christmas Party
- December 22: BCYF Broiler Pick Up
- December 25 & 26: County Holiday, CLOSED
- December 29 & 30: TX 4-H Photography Field Trip
- December 31: BCYF 2 Meeting Deadline

January 2018

- January 2: BCYF Food Container Pick Up
- January 7: BCYF Rabbit Validation
- January 8: MAB Finance Meeting
- January 9: County Council Meeting
- January 12: Texas 4-H Scholarship Rough Draft deadline to Sheryl
- January 12: BCYF Home School Eligibility Due
- January 16: MAB Meeting
- January 16: BCYF Photography Upload Deadline
- January 20: Clover Kids Meeting
- January 22: FINAL Texas 4-H Scholarship Application deadline to Sheryl
- January 22: BCYF Ride Night—Speed
- January 23: BCYF Ride Night—Performance
- January 27: BCYF Commercial Steer Weigh Out
- January 28: BCYF Carcass Swine Weigh In
- January 29: BCYF Ride Night—Speed
- January 30: BCYF Ride Night—Performance





BELL COUNTY 4-H NEWSLETTER

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

<http://bell-co.tamu.edu>

4-H: Sheryl Long

Sheryl.Long@ag.tamu.edu

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheryl Long". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status.

The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

Everything will be posted on the Bell County 4-H website

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