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Family & Consumer
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Tonya Elliott
4-H Program Assistant

Congratulations to the Food Challenge Teams that competed at District!

Lean, Green, Cooking Machines—
2nd Place & Team Spirit Award
Austin Castillo, Hayden Guzman,
Margaret Wood, Billy Wood

Cowpoke Cooks

Chevi Camden, Madison Cross,
Ryan Nixon, Catelyn Tyler

Nutri-Heroes

John Lawson, Evan Yost, Jared Yost

Congratulations to our District 8 Food Show Winners!

Austin Castillo—Protein, 4th place
Merah Winters—Dairy, 1st Place
Billy Wood—Grains, 1st Place
Margaret Wood—Fruit &
Vegetables, 3rd Place

**Please welcome to our Extension
Office staff, Tonya Elliott! Tonya
will be the Bell County
4-H Program Assistant.**



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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. Dept. of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

A member of The Texas A&M University System and its statewide Agriculture Program.

EVENT	REGISTRATION DUE DATE	EVENT DATE	LOCATION
Bell County Consumer Decision Making	January 22, 2016	Wednesday, January 27, 2016**	County Extension Office
District Consumer Decision Making		Saturday, February 27, 2016	China Spring Elementary School Waco
Bell County Nutrition Quiz Bowl	January 22, 2016	Wednesday, January 27, 2016**	County Extension Office
District Nutrition Quiz Bowl		Saturday, February 27, 2016	MCC Emergency Services Education Center, Waco
Bell County Photography Contest	March 1, 2016		
District Photography Contest			Display: April 30, 2015 at District Roundup
District Horse Judging		Saturday, April 16, 2016	TAMU, College Station
District Range Evaluation Contest District Plant ID Contest District Entomology Contest District Wool Contest District Mohair Contest District Ag Product ID Contest		Friday, April 15, 2016	Tarleton State University, Stephenville
Multi-District Contests (Livestock, Meat, Soil)		Saturday, April 23, 2016	TAMU, College Station
Bell County Round Up	TBD	TBD	TBD
District Roundup		Saturday, April 30, 2016	
4-H Scholarship Interviews			Austin*
District Rifle Contest		Saturday, May 14, 2016	Leon County Gun Club
Texas 4-H Roundup		June 6-10, 2016	TAMU, College Station
District Horse Show		June 20-21, 2016	Bell County Expo Center, Belton
Bell County Recordbook Judging	TBD	TBD	TBD
District Leadership Lab & Officer Elections			
District Recordbook Judging		Thursday, July 7, 2016	Bosque County*
Southeast District County Camp			Palestine
Texas 4-H Congress			Austin
Texas 4-H Horse Show			Taylor County Expo Center, Abilene
Texas 4-H Recordbook Judging		Monday, August 1, 2016**	
	<i>**Tentative Dates and/or Locations</i>		



County Council & Ambassadors



County Council Meeting

The next County Council Meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 19th at the CEO. This meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. The program will be "In the Show Ring" and the community service project will be participating in the Valentines for Vets program . All council delegates from the 4-H Clubs are strongly encouraged to attend all council meetings!

Future Council Meeting Dates:

March 30, May 9

4-H Club Managers

BCYF Food Container Pick Up

Attention Club Managers! You can start picking up food containers on January 4th at the CEO for your participants competing in the 2016 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 Tuesday, January 5th. We will be reviewing the finances starting at 6:30 p.m. We strongly encourage a representative from each club to attend this meeting!

Membership Advisory Board Meeting

All MAB officers will need to attend the next Membership Advisory Board Meeting on Tuesday, January 12th at the CEO. Meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. We encourage any 4-H Adult Volunteer to attend.

FCS Project News

Healthy Lifestyles Advisory Board Meeting

The next Healthy Lifestyles Advisory Board Meeting will take place on Thursday, January 21, 2016 at the County Extension Office starting at 5:30 p.m. Anyone interested in the Food and Nutrition projects is welcome to attend!

Clothing Board Meeting

The Clothing Board Meeting that was scheduled for Tuesday, December 1st has been RESCHEDULED to January 21, 2016 at the County Extension Office starting at 6:30 p.m. Anyone interested in the clothing and textiles project is welcome!

Consumer Decision Making

Practices for Consumer Decision Making will be taking place every Tuesday at the First Baptist Church in Belton. Practices will start at 3:30 p.m. and conclude at 5:00 p.m. Barbara Wood will work around your schedule for those having to arrive later or leave early. There will be NO PRACTICE on February 9th due to it being BCYF. February 23rd will be the last scheduled CDM practice.

Nutrition Quiz Bowl

Practices for Consumer Decision Making will be taking place every Tuesday at the First Baptist Church in Belton. Practices will start at 5:00 p.m. and conclude at 7:00 p.m. Barbara Wood will work around your schedule for those having to arrive later or leave early. There will be NO PRACTICE on February 9th due to it being BCYF. The January 5, 12, & 19 practices will conclude at 6:00 p.m. due to other scheduled county events. February 23rd will be the last scheduled CDM practice.

Bell County Youth Fair Photography Entries

Entries for the Bell County Youth Fair Photography Contest may be uploaded starting on Monday, January 4th through no later than Midnight on Friday, January 15, 2016. NO LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED. Check your Bell County Youth Fair Catalog for more details.

Upcoming Events



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. <http://agrillife.org/bell4h/4-h-activities/scholarships/>

Texas 4-H Foundation—1st Draft to Sheryl R. by January 14, 2016

Final application to District Office by February 5, 2016

State Fair of Texas Scholarship—to SFT by February 15, 2016

Bell County 4-H Scholarship—to CEO by March 1, 2016

District 8 TAE4-HA Scholarship—Milam County by May 15, 2016

Texas Agricultural Irrigation Association Scholarship—to TAIA in Lubbock by March 1, 2016

Don't hesitate on asking for help or if you have any questions regarding scholarships.

Vet Science Project

Help the Vet Science project collect items for the Texas Humane Heroes in Killeen. They are needing: Canned dog food, canned cat food, bleach, old blankets, and high efficiency laundry detergent. Drop off items at the County Extension Office or contact Kristen Baker at 254-462-2976.



Other Meeting Dates: January 6—Bell County Communication Center @ 6 p.m.

March 2—Abiding Savior Church @ 6 p.m.

April 6, May 4, June 1, July 6 – Bell County Communication Center @ 6 p.m.

August 9-11—Vet Science Summer Camp

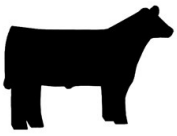
Vet Science Planning meeting for 2016-2017 year will take place September 7, 2016 at the Bell County Communication Center @ 6 p.m.

Clover Kids Meetings

February 20—Location TBD, March 19—Temple Public Library, April 16—Temple Public Library, May 21—Location TBD, and June 18—Temple Public Library

4-H/FCS Coalition Meeting

The next 4-H/FCS Coalition meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 23rd from 6:00—7:00 p.m. at the CEO. Contact Jackie McLaughlin for more information.



Livestock Project News



~Poultry Exhibitors~

San Antonio, Houston & Austin Broilers: pick up on January 27, 2016. Check with Heidi for a specific time frame.



2016 Rabbit Validation

When: Sunday, January 10, 2016

Where: Bell County Expo Center

Cost: \$1.00 per rabbit

All fryer rabbits must be validated!



Texas 4-H Dog Validation

4-H Dog projects must be validated by January 10, 2016 to be eligible to enter the Texas 4-H Dog Show. The 2016 Texas 4-H Dog Show will be held at the Bell County Expo Center on July 8-10, 2016. Dog validation is conducted on 4-H Connect and is free of charge. We encourage you to validate any dog that might want to show in July.

Bell County Youth Fair

Commercial Steers Weigh Out

Commercial Steer Weigh Out for the Bell County Youth Fair will be January 23, 2016 starting at 8 a.m. at the Bell County Expo Center. Steers must weigh a minimum of 1,000 pounds at the time of weigh out.

Recordbooks for the Commercial Steer contest need to be turned in to the Bell County Extension Office (Youth Fair Office) by 5:00 p.m. on January 29, 2016.



Bell County Youth Fair

BCYF Home School Eligibility

The Homeschool Eligibility deadline is January 15, 2016. 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, 2016.

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

Carcass Swine Weigh In

Carcass Swine Weigh in for the Bell County Youth Fair will be January 30, 2016 from 9:00—10:00 a.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.

BCYF Horse Exhibitor Ride Nights

Speed Events: January 18, January 25, February 4, 6:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.

Performance Events: January 19, January 26, 6:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m. &

February 5 3:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.

Ride night events are only for the contestants registered for competition in the Bell County Youth Fair Horse Show. Only the contestant horses that are the primary or alternate horses signed up for the events in 2016. 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 Heidi.
- 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.

If you would like to volunteer or have any suggestions, please call or send an e-mail. The office number is (254) 933-5305, and e-mail is heidi.prude@ag.tamu.edu.

Important Dates

January 2016

February 2016

January 1: County Holiday, CLOSED

January 4: Start of BCYF Food Container Pick Up

January 4: Start of BCYF Photography Entry uploading, online

January 5: MAB Finance Meeting, 6:30 pm

January 5: CDM Practice & NQB Practice

January 6: Vet Science

January 10: BCYF Rabbit Validation, 3-7 at Expo

January 12: MAB Meeting, 6:30 pm

January 12: CDM Practice & NQB Practice

January 14: Scholarship First Draft due to SR

January 15: BCYF Homeschool Eligibility due

January 15: BCYF Photo Entry Deadline

January 18: BCYF Ride Night—Speed, 6-9 pm

January 19: BCYF Ride Night—Performance, 6-9

January 19: County Council Meeting, 6:30 pm

January 19: CDM Practice & NQB Practice

January 21: HLAB Meeting, 5:30 pm at CEO

January 21: Clothing Board Meeting, 6:30 at CEO

January 22: Bell County Entry Deadline for CDM

January 22: Bell County Entry Deadline for Nutrition Quiz Bowl

January 23: BCYF Commercial Steer Weigh Out

January 25: BCYF Ride Night—Speed, 6-9 pm

January 26: BCYF Ride Night—Performance, 6-9

January 26: CDM Practice & NQB Practice

January 27: TENTATIVE date for Bell County CDM & Nutrition Quiz Bowl Contest

January 29: BCYF Commercial Steer RB Due

January 30: BCYF Carcass Swine Weigh In

February 2: CDM Practice & NQB Practice

February 4: BCYF Ride Night—Speed, 6-9 pm

February 5: BCYF Ride Night—Performance, 3-9

February 5: Scholarship paperwork due!!

February 6-13—BELL COUNTY YOUTH FAIR

February 15: State Fair Scholarship Due

February 16: CDM Practice & NQB Practice

February 20: Clover Kid Meeting

February 23: CDM Practice & NQB Practice

February 23: 4-H/FCS Coalition Meeting, 6-7 pm

March 1: Bell County 4-H Scholarship Due

TEXAS A&M
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BELL COUNTY
4-H NEWSLETTER

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

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