

Bell County Staff:

**Sheryl Austin**

Cooperative Extension—  
Family & Consumer  
Sciences

**Tonya Elliott**

4-H Program Assistant

**Whitney Grantham**

County Extension Agent  
Natural Resources

**Sheryl Long**

County Extension Agent  
4-H & Youth  
Development

**Jackie McLaughlin**

County Extension Agent  
Family & Consumer  
Sciences

**Emma Merlot**

BLT Assistant

**Lyle Zoeller**

County Extension Agent  
Agriculture

**Congratulations to Marshall  
Halfmann, the Bell County 4-H  
Scholarship Winner!**

**Congratulations to all of our Bell  
County 4-H Teams that will be  
Advancing to the State Contest  
in June!**

Livestock Judging Team

Meats Judging

Ag Product ID Team

Livestock Skill-a-Thon

**Hunter's Spectacular**

SAVE THE DATE!

The Bell County 4-H fundraiser will take place Saturday, September 30, 2017 at the Bell County Expo Center! If you are interested in serving on a committee, please let Sheryl know ASAP!

**Bell County 4-H Awards Banquet**

The annual 4-H Banquet is set for Tuesday, August 8, 2017 at the Bell County Expo Special Events Room. We will need pictures for the 4-H slideshow. Please send any pictures from your club activities or 4-H contests to [Sheryl.Long@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Sheryl.Long@ag.tamu.edu). Submission deadline will be in June.



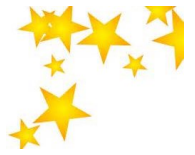
1605 N. Main, Room 102

Belton, TX 76513

Phone: (254)933-5305

Fax: (254)933-5312

E-mail: [bell@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:bell@ag.tamu.edu) Website: <http://agrilife.org/bell4h/>



# Awards

## ADULT LEADER AWARDS

Bell County 4-H volunteer leaders and Bell County 4-H County Council will solicit nominations and vote to select two individuals to be recognized at the Annual 4-H Banquet for "Distinguished Service." One will be chosen by the MAB and one chosen by 4-H members. 4-H volunteer leaders who are chosen for this award include outstanding club managers, leaders, project leaders, workshop leaders and volunteer leaders who go above and beyond their leader capabilities.

**OUTSTANDING LEADER AWARD-** The Outstanding Leader Award chosen from the 4-H member requires an essay no longer than 1 page. **The ESSAYS ARE DUE May 5, 2017!** The essay should include the following:

Name of Person Making Nomination

Leader Nominated

Date

Why do you think this leader is an outstanding leader?

What does this leader do that is outstanding?

Examples: Teaches others new projects, takes 4-Hers on tours, leads club, etc.

How has this leader helped you?

How has this leader helped others?

Nominations should be emailed to Sheryl.Long@ag.tamu.edu

## Bell County 4-H Awards

All 4-H members applying for awards (Gold, Silver or Bronze Star; Rookie, Honor Roll, All-Star Letterman; Danforth, Senior Awards Outstanding Community Service, must submit the appropriate paperwork and applications by **May 5, 2017**. Award Interviews will be later in May at the Bell County Extension Office. Record books for county competition will be due on **June 9, 2017**. Awards age based on 4-H Grade as of August 31, 2016

Graduating seniors for the 2017 year, who are members of 4-H, may apply to receive a Senior Award, to be presented at the Bell County 4-H Awards Banquet. Seniors must have been active and meet the requirements listed on the application.

Other descriptions and awards information is available on the Bell County 4-H Website by going to:

<http://agrilife.org/bell4h/4-h-activities/4-h-awards/>

## 4-H Award Interviews

**When:** June 15, 2017

**Where:** CEO Board Room

We will schedule interview times for those members that applied to receive an award.



# County Council & Ambassadors



## County Council Meeting

The Bell County 4-H Council will be electing officers for the 2017-2018 4-H year during the **May 8th** meeting. To run for an officer position, you must submit an Intent to Run form to the County Extension Office on or before **May 5, 2017**. The Intent to Run form can be found on the Bell County 4-H website, <http://agrilife.org/bell4h/4-h-clubs-and-councils/4-h-county-council/>

## Ambassadors Applications for 2017-2018

The 4-H Ambassador Program aims to project a clear and accurate image of the Texas and Bell County 4-H Program. They help older youth develop leadership and communication skills, help the public understand the full scope of the 4-H program, and recruit new members from diverse backgrounds. Bell County 4-H Members must meet the following requirements to be considered for selection as a Bell County 4-H Ambassador: Be at least 14 years of age as of August 31 on the year of application. **Submit a complete application, due on May 5, 2017.** A formal interview will be given after all applications have been submitted. Members will be notified for interview times. Interviews will be formal dress.

### RENEWAL OF AMBASSADORS:

Meet all activity requirements and minimum points by the **application deadline, May 5, 2017** of the current 4-H year to be considered for renewal. (Recordbook is also a requirement and is due **June 9, 2017**).

Please turn in point sheets with renewal application!

For applications go to: <http://agrilife.org/bell4h/4-h-clubs-and-councils/ambassadors/>

# 4-H Club Managers

## Membership Advisory Board Meeting

**When:** May 18, 2017

**Where:** CEO

**Time:** 6:30 pm

All Club Managers and Assistant Club Managers are required to attend. This meeting will not only elect new officers, but we will have a training for those that attend. All parents and leaders are also invited to attend.

Each club is allowed a maximum of 3 votes.

We will hopefully have the 2017-2018 charter packets available from the state office to give to each club. Let Sheryl know if you have a schedule conflict or any questions.



# Summer Fun Activities



## Camps for 2017

Interested in participating in a camp this year? Keep checking the Bell County 4-H website for more information <http://agrillife.org/bell4h/4-h-activities/campinformation/>

### **Texas 4-H Conference Center Summer Camps @ Brownwood**

Horizons (Grades 4-8)- June 25-June 29

County Camp I—June 26-28—Bell County 4-H will be attending this!

Mission Possible- July 6-8

Prime Time Extreme (Grades 8-11) - July 11-14

Prime Time I (Grades 5-8)- July 16-19

Prime Time II (Grades 2-5)- July 19-22

Fishing Camp (Grade 3 & Up) - July 24-26

To register, go to [Texas4Hcenter.tamu.edu](http://Texas4Hcenter.tamu.edu) website “Camps” page and click on REGISTER NOW button.

### **District 8 Leadership Lab**

**Date:** June 21-23

**Location:** Texas 4-H Conference Center, Brownwood

**Cost:** TBD

**Deadline:** Friday, May 19, 2017

The completed, signed release forms will need to be **scanned as a pdf and uploaded** to 4-H Connect during the registration process. The forms require a copy of the participant’s **insurance card**.

If you are interested in becoming a District 8 Council Advisor, you must attend this camp to run for an office. More details to come in May.

### **South East District 8 County Camp**

**Date:** July 7-9, 2017

**Location:** Lakeview Methodist Conference Center, Palestine, TX

**Cost:** \$125 per child, \$85 per adult

**Deadline:** Forms & payment due in Bell County Office by **May 19**

If you have any questions e-mail Sheryl at [Sheryl.Long@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Sheryl.Long@ag.tamu.edu).

All paperwork will be posted on the Bell County 4-H Webpage

If you are a Senior Aged 4-H member (grades 9-12) , consider being a workshop leader or a group leader.

Notify Sheryl if you are interested.



# Upcoming Events



## Texas 4-H Round Up Entries

We need you to enter the Texas 4-H Round Up ASAP! You must register your child and yourself by Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED. Registration takes place on 4-H Connect at [www.4honline.com](http://www.4honline.com)! We do not want to miss anyone that qualified or interested in competing in an invitation-al contest! Make sure you communicate with any of your team members and myself on whether or not your qualified team wants to participate at state. Adults that will be attending must register too! Call or e-mail Sheryl with any questions. All Texas 4-H Round Up documents are posted on <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/>

## Texas 4-H Outdoor Challenge

**When:** June 16-18, 2017

**Where:** Seguin Outdoor Learning Center

**Cost:** \$35 per person

**Registration:** on 4-H Connect by May 29, 2017

The 4-H Outdoor Challenge consists of 10 events where teams compete to earn point for overall high point position. A team consists of exactly 2 members within the same age division and gender class. Teams compete in all 10 events during one weekend competition. Participants will learn and practice various outdoor education activities from fishing and shooting to camping and biologist skills.

<http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/outdoor-education-living-skills/>

## Texas 4-H Dog Show



**Entry Deadline:** May 8, 2017

**Cost:** \*\$5 registration fee per exhibitor \*\$10 per entry per dog per class

\$10 per Drill Team Member \*\$3 per entry/per photo \*\$5 Exhibition Classes

**When & Where:** The Texas 4-H Dog show will take place July 7-9, 2017 at the Bell County Expo.

Find out more information at <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/dogshow/>

## Tractor Supply Clover Campaign

We need your help! Tractor Supply's Spring Paper Clover fundraiser will be held April 26– May 7. Up to 65% of the funds raised in the Temple and Killeen stores will benefit Bell County 4-H. Stores that have 4-H member participation during the campaign raise an average of 40% more than stores that do not have participation. If you are interested in participating at one the TSC in the county, please contact Barbara Wood at

[woodbtwice@gmail.com](mailto:woodbtwice@gmail.com)



# 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. Sheryl will be e-mailing applications to family e-mails listed on 4-H Connect for 4-H members listed in Grade 12. Don't hesitate on asking for help or if you have any questions regarding scholarships.

District 8 TAE4-HA Scholarship—**May 15, 2017** to Erath County

## Ag Product ID Practice

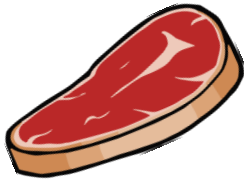
Ag Product ID practices are scheduled for the following dates:

**May: 5, 17**

Practices will be at 6:00 at the 702 House. New participants are welcomed to attend

Please contact Michael Canales at 541-6293 if you have any questions.

## Meat Judging Practices



Meat judging practice will take place the following days.

**May 15 & 27** at the CEO in Belton from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

**May 7, 14 & 21** at Westbell Water Supply from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Contact the CEO or Nora Whitson if you have any questions.

## Meat Identification Workshop

We will be hosting a Meat Identification Workshop on May 30th at the CEO from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. This workshop will help student that participate in Meats Judging, Livestock Skill-a-Thon, and Ag Product ID with the meat identification section of those contests. This will be a fun and educational workshop!

Please RSVP to the CEO!

## Vet Science Project Schedule

**MAY 10<sup>th</sup>**—KISD Career Center, 6:30 p.m.—End of year party and camp planning meeting

**June**—TBD—MCC Field Trip to Vet Tech Program Dept

**July**—TBD—Blinn Field Trip to Vet Tech Program Dept.

**August**—Vet Science Camp

Contact Stacey Winters or Richard Lary for more information.



# Upcoming Events



## Clover Kids

The next meetings for the Bell County 4-H Clover Kids are:

**May 20**—Temple Public Library, 3rd floor McLane Room, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

**June 17**—Clover Kids Camp @ Temple Public Library, 1:00 -4:00 p.m.

**July 15**—Clover Kids Fair @ First United Methodist Church in Belton, 10:00 a.m.

**July 20**—Clover Kids Recordbooks are due to CEO

## Bell County Record Books

**Due:** June 9, 2017 to the CEO

**Where:** CEO by 5pm



If you would like Sheryl to review your scholarship BEFORE the June 9th FINAL submission date, then please give her your recordbook ASAP. We will trade record books with Williamson County on **June 13th** for those who want to help us judge.

We will be judging in Bell County this year.

District 8 Record Books will be judged on July 6th in Williamson County.

We will need 3 volunteers to help us judge this event this as well.

## Livestock Judging Team & Livestock Skillathon Team

If you are a senior or intermediate aged 4-H member interested in competing with the Livestock Judging team or Livestock Skillathon teams during the invitational contests at State Round Up in June, contact Whitney at the CEO to get more information on how to sign up. The deadline for entry is May 15th.

**Livestock Skillathon Contest: June 6th**

**Livestock Judging Invitational Contest: June 8**



# FCS Project News



## Community Service Project

The Clothing and Textiles Project Group is sponsoring community service project and invites everyone to please contribute. They are collecting **new** backpacks, duffle bags or totes for the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) of Bell County in assistance to the Child Protection Agency. Children need a backpack, tote or duffle bag to put their clothes and belongings in when they go to a new home. You can bring the donated tote, backpack or duffle bag to the CEO. Please think how important this small gesture is to the support of self-esteem of a child.



# FCS Project News



## Photography Field Trip

**Botanical Garden Photography Field Trip** is coming soon! Don't PLANT yourself at home, upROOT yourself and join us at the Zilker Botanical Gardens in Austin, TX for a day of hands-on shooting. We will learn about plant photography and then break into groups to explore the extensive grounds filled with flowers and exotic plants. The gardens feature a butterfly garden, a pioneer village, rose, herb and Japanese gardens, waterfalls, and a koi-filled pond so you could end the day with landscape, plant, animal, and maybe even people photos.

Transportation is limited - be sure to RSVP so we don't "Leaf" you behind! **Parent volunteers**, we need additional 4-H screened drivers so please contact the CEO or the Coffmans if you can assist.

**Contest:** Submit your best Zilker Botanical Garden plant photo to [familycoffman@aol.com](mailto:familycoffman@aol.com) NLT June 2, 2017 for a chance to win a prize. We will be presenting awards from our last photography event (the Farm Letter Photo Shoot) before heading to Zilker.

**Who:** ALL age 4-Hers interested in photography. Clover kids welcome if accompanied by a responsible adult.

**Where:** Meet at CEO- Event is at Zilker Botanical Gardens, 2220 Barton Springs Road, Austin, TX

**When:** Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>—Departing the CEO at 9:00 a.m. (please be there at 8:45 to check in and board vehicles). Returning the CEO NLT 4:30 p.m. (we will call if earlier)

**Cost:** \*Ages 12 and under: \$1.00      \*Ages 13 and up: \$3.00

**Bring:** \*Entrance money (cash only)      \*Brown bag lunch      \*Water bottle (filled)  
\*Camera or cell phone      \*Sunscreen and/or hat      \*Wear comfortable walking shoes

**RSVP: Monday, May 15, 2017** to Elizabeth or Christian Coffman, 254-718-1332, [familycoffman@aol.com](mailto:familycoffman@aol.com). Include your name, age, and if you are needing transportation.

## Dinner Tonight Healthy Cooking School

Learn how to prepare easy, nutritious and economical meals for your family. This event will take place on Tuesday, May 23, 2017 at the Bell County Expo Center from 6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m. Doors open at 5 p.m.

Register online at [agriferegister.tamu.edu/dinnertonight](http://agriferegister.tamu.edu/dinnertonight) or call 979-845-2604.

\$20 registration fee and \$25 at the door.

Contact Jackie McLaughlin for more information.

## Summer Clothing Blast

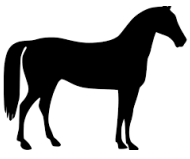
Save the Date! The annual Summer Clothing Blast will take place on July 13 & 14 at the Bell County Extension Office. More details to come!



## Cupcake & Cake Decorating Workshop

Save the Date! We will be hosting a Cupcake and Cake Decorating Workshop at the CEO on Thursday, August 10, 2017. More details to come!





# Livestock Project News



## Texas 4-H Livestock Ambassador

The Texas 4-H Livestock Ambassador program strives to provide high school aged 4-H members the opportunity to develop and practice advanced leadership skills related to mentoring other youth, and to become advocates for animal agriculture.



### Objectives:

- Prepare youth to serve in leadership capacities in junior livestock programs across Texas.
- Prepare youth for the experience of the University setting, through intensive science based instruction and experiences.
- Prepare and provide opportunities for youth to serve in advocacy roles for animal agriculture, 4-H, and junior livestock programs.
- Develop a heightened awareness of career opportunities in animal agriculture and advocacy.

### Selection Criteria:

- Senior age (14-18) 4-H youth that have exhibited a superior level of ambition regarding livestock projects
- Students with a profound interest in animal science and animal production
- Students have shown advanced leadership qualities and a willingness to help others
- Top 25% class rank

### Application Process

- Applicants go to: [http://tamuag.az1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_0JPBcTafCz8b52J](http://tamuag.az1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_0JPBcTafCz8b52J)
  - Student will complete the application and enter the contact information of supervising County Extension Agent
  - CEA will be automatically emailed a recommendation survey
- A selection committee will review the applications and accept 25 participants per university
- Applications are due June 2, 2017. Applicants will be notified by June 16, 2017 regarding application result

## 2nd Annual Rabbit Fest Show

Hares and Hounds 4-H Club would like to announce their 2nd Annual Rabbit Show as part of Copperas Cove Rabbit Fest. Come to city park on May 20th for our double youth ARBA show. Registration is from 7-8 am, with the shows starting simultaneously at 9 am. Youth contests include showmanship, rabbit hopping, breed id, and costume contest. There will be concessions and raffle, as well.

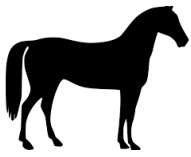
Contact [hares\\_hounds@outlook.com](mailto:hares_hounds@outlook.com) for more information.

## Bell County Youth Fair & Major Livestock Show Turkeys and State Fair of Texas Broilers

**Order Deadline & Cost:** TBD be looking for more information from Whitney soon!

**Deadline:** TBD

Contact Whitney Grantham for more information



# Livestock Project News



## Major Show Steer Validation & Heifer Validation

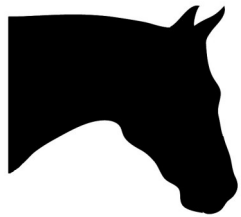
### State Fair Lamb, Goat & Swine Validation

Major Show Steer Validation and Major Show Heifer Validation will take place on **Tuesday, June 27th** at the Bell County Expo. We must scan and upload **ORIGINAL** heifer registration papers before validation. Your heifers must be properly tattooed **BEFORE** arrival as well. Please bring a copy registration papers with you to validation. All State Fair Validations will take place this day also. The schedule is as follows:

**Market Steer/Breeding Heifer Validations:** 7:00 – 10:00 am AND 5:00 – 7:00 pm

**State Fair of Texas Goat, Sheep, and Swine Validations:** 5:00 – 7:00 pm

Contact Whitney Grantham if you have any questions.



## District 8 4-H Horse Show

**Date:** June 19-20, 2017

**Location:** Bell County Expo

**Entry Deadline:** May 19, 2017 on 4-H Connect

**Cost:** \$15 per class

Only properly validated horses can enter.

**NEW!** Waiver forms will not be mailed. The form will be signed, scanned as a pdf, and uploaded online.

Contact Sheryl or Whitney if you have any questions.

<http://agrillife.org/d84h/events-and-activities/horse-show/>

**Please keep in mind, if you need help with selection, feeding, and management of livestock projects, don't hesitate to call Whitney, Lyle or Sheryl. We are here to help you with your projects!**



# Important Dates

May 2017

**May 5: 4-H Awards Applications Due**  
**May 5: Ambassador Applications Due**  
**May 5: County Council Intent to Run Form Due**  
**May 5: Ag Product ID Practice**  
**May 6: District 8 Roundup, Riesel**  
**May 8: County Council Officer Elections**  
**May 8: Texas 4-H Dog Show Entry Deadline**  
**May 10: Vet Science Project Meeting**  
**May 15: D8 TAE4-HA Scholarship due in Erath**  
**May 15: RSVP Deadline for Photography Field Trip**  
**May 16: Texas 4-H Round Up Entry Deadline**  
**May 17: Ag Product ID Practice**  
**May 18: MAB Meeting**  
**May 19: D8 Horse Show Entry Deadline**  
**May 19: D8 Leadership Lab Registration Deadline**  
**May 19: SED8 County Camp Registration Deadline**  
**May 20: Photography Workshop Field Trip**  
**May 20: Clover Kid Meeting**  
**May 20: 2nd Annual Rabbit Fest Show**  
**May 23: Dinner Tonight Cooking School**  
**May 29: Outdoor Challenge Entry Deadline**  
**May 29: Meat Identification Workshop**

June 2017

**June 2: Texas 4-H Livestock Ambassador deadline**  
**June 9: Recordbooks due to CEO**  
**June 13: County Recordbook Judging, CEO**  
**June 15: 4-H Award Interviews**  
**June 16-18: Texas 4-H Outdoor Challenge, Seguin**  
**June 19-20: D8 Horse Show, Expo**  
**June 21-23: D8 Leadership Lab, Brownwood**  
**June 27: Major Show Steer & Heifer Validation**  
**June 27: State Fair Barrow, Goat & Lamb Validation**  
**June 27: 4-H FCS Coalition Meeting**  
**June 26-28: County Camp I, Brownwood**

**July 7-9: Texas 4-H Dog Show, Bell County Expo**  
**July 13-14: Summer Clothing Blast**



## BELL COUNTY 4-H NEWSLETTER

Bell County Extension  
1605 N. Main Room 102  
Belton, TX 76513  
Phone: 254-933-5305  
Fax: 254-933-5312

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

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

4-H: Sheryl Long

[Sheryl.Long@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Sheryl.Long@ag.tamu.edu)



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheryl Long".

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://agrillife.org/bell4h/>