

March 2018 Focus

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 & Community
Health

BLT Assistant

Lyle Zoeller

County Extension Agent
Agriculture

Congratulations to all of our 4-H members that competed at the Bell County Youth Fair, Fort Worth, San Angelo and the San Antonio Livestock Shows!

Houston and Austin Livestock Show passes are ready for pick up!



4-H Takes You Places

Welcome
Spring



1605 N. Main, Room 102

Belton, TX 76513



CoolClips.com

County Council & Ambassadors



mos.29i21000

County Council Meeting

WHEN: Monday, March 26th **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 can food items for the Love of Christ Food Pantry.

Bring any canned food item as a donation. Any size welcomed.

The program for the evening is being presented by the Bell County Master Gardeners.

Ambassadors for the Bell EEA Style Show

We need several 4-H Ambassadors to assist on **Saturday, March 17th** for the Bell County EEA Style Show. This includes assisting the models on or off the stage, assisting attendees carrying their lunch plates and delivering the door prizes to the winners at the event.

Email Sheryl Long and let her know if you will be helping that day.

4-H Club Managers

Membership Advisory Board Committee Meeting

(By-Laws, Finance Guidelines, and Nominations)

When: April 12, 2018

Where: CEO

Time: 6:00 pm

This meeting will not only nominate new officers for Vice President and Secretary, but we will also review the MAB by-laws, and review the Finance Guideline. All parents and leaders are also invited to attend.

Contact Sheryl Long if you have any questions.

NEW! Club Manager Training Series

I am excited to announce that we will be conducting online workshops targeted toward 4-H Club Managers in District 8 this spring and summer! This will be a casual training atmosphere where 4-H volunteers can ask questions, get questions answered, share ideas, and hopefully learn something new!

Topics will vary by month and volunteers are welcomed to submit suggestions online. Trainings are set from 12 noon until 1 pm on WebEx on the following Tuesdays:

***March 20, 2018**

***April 24, 2018**

***May 15, 2018**

***July 31, 2018**

More information can be found online at: <https://agrilife.org/d84h/club-managers/>



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.

Bell County 4-H Scholarship—to CEO by **March 2, 2018**

Capital Farm Credit Scholarship— to Temple Office by **March 15, 2018**

Bell County Youth Fair—to CEO by **April 13, 2018**

District 8 TAE4-HA Scholarship—**May 15, 2018**

Don't hesitate to ask for help if you have any questions regarding scholarships.

Ag Product ID Practices

Ag Product ID practices will be starting up again for the spring contests. The practices will be held at 6:00 pm at the First Baptist Church 702 House on the following dates:

March 5th

March 12th

April 2nd

April 9th

Upcoming contests:

Houston Livestock Show: **March 14, 2018:** Basic teams are set but a few more can be added

NEW contest: Leon County: **Monday, April 1, 2018:** Registration will be that day. Looking for participants in the 2 age divisions (junior and senior)

District 8 in Stephenville: **April 20, 2018:** There is NO LIMIT to the number of teams participating this year. Based on our numbers, Bell County can have a huge presence at this contest. This contest will have 3 age divisions (junior, intermediate, senior). Teams will be set up soon.

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

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.

Bell County Safety Day

Save the Date! The Bell County Safety Day will take place on **Thursday, April 24, 2018** at the Bell County Expo Center. I will need youth members to be group leaders that day! Please email Sheryl Long if you are able to help that day.



Upcoming Events



~Upcoming District 8 4-H Contests~

If you want to participate in any of the following Spring District 8 Contests, you must notify the CEO by
Friday, March 23, 2018:

*Horse Judging *Range Evaluation *Plant ID *Entomology Contest *Wool Contest *Mohair Contest
*Ag Product ID *Livestock Judging *Meat Judging *Soil *Livestock Skillathon

A lot of these contests are TEAM events so it takes planning on our part to align the teams. Make sure you notify us no later than March 23rd if you want to participate.

Bell County Round UP

The Bell County Roundup includes 3 different contests. Public Speaking, Educational Presentations, and Share The Fun. **County Roundup will be held April 5th at the First United Methodist Church in Belton.**

Educational Presentations are where you teach the audience about a certain topic/4-H project or it can also be a “how to” methods demonstration.

Public Speaking is speaking to a group without visuals and about some issue or topic.

Entry Forms and more information can be found on the Bell County 4-H website under Projects.

Entries will be due March 23rd.

Tractor Supply Spring Clover Campaign

4-H Spring Paper Clover – April 26-May 7



FCH Project News



District 8 Fashion Show

The District 8 Fashion Show takes place on **Tuesday, April 17th** at the Bell County Expo Center. Good luck to all Bell County 4-H members participating in this contest!

Bell EEA Style Show & Luncheon

March 17th is the Bell County Extension Education Association Style Show and Luncheon, 11am at the Bell County EXPO! Center. The theme for this year's style show and luncheon is "**St. Patrick's Day**". This event supports the Bell EEA scholarship program for senior grade 4-Her's. If you modeled at the Bell County Youth Fair Fashion Revue and signed up to model at the EEA Luncheon, Jackie McLaughlin will be contacting you. Please send Jackie your commentary for your outfit. Those who signed up to model will need to come to the EXPO! on **Friday, March 16th**, between 4pm and 5pm to practice their modeling.

On Saturday, March 17th the day of the style show, the models will need to report by 10:30am. The models will be given a complimentary lunch. All family members are welcome to attend, however they will need to buy a ticket (\$12.00) to the event in advance. No tickets will be sold at the door. Tickets can be purchased at the Bell County Extension Office. If you have ANY questions, call the extension office and ask for Jackie McLaughlin.

NEW Texas 4-H Fashion & Interior Design Ambassador Program!

In this project youth can learn to design, construct, and be a smart consumer when purchasing clothing and household items. Participants will have fun creating environmentally friendly projects while exploring careers in the fashion and interior design industries. The 4-H members can choose to work on their own or with a group.

The previous Clothing & Textiles and Interior Design & Green Living 4-H projects have been combined into one! This exciting venture brings with it an updated webpage, <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/clothing-textiles/>, the addition of the Texas 4-H Fashion & Interior Design Ambassador Program, and more innovative opportunities to be integrated in the future. The current Texas 4-H Clothing & Textiles Advisory Board will convert to the youth ambassador program beginning in July.

Criteria:

- A senior 4-H member for the 2018-19 school year
- Be passionate for, and active in the 4-H Fashion & Interior Design project
- Willing and available to serve a two-year term
- Provide a minimum of 40 hours of leadership and service
- Attend the MANDATORY ambassador training

Guidelines and application link for the Texas 4-H Fashion & Interior Design Ambassadors can be found at, <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/clothing-textiles/>. Applicants will be notified in April regarding results

Register by May 31st through 4-H Connect

Photography Project

Bell County Photography Contest

The Bell County Photography Contest is right around the corner so start preparations now! The Bell County entry deadline will be **Friday, March 2nd**. Entries must be EMAILED to Sheryl.Long@ag.tamu.edu. The winner of each category in each of the age divisions in the Bell County Contest will advance to the District 8 Contest. Senior aged 4-H members that win their category in the Bell County contest, will also advance to the State4-H contest.

Please make sure and follow the instruction on the 2018 Texas 4-H Photography Contest Rules & Guidelines. [https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/17-18 Texas4H Photo Rules.pdf](https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/17-18%20Texas4H%20Photo%20Rules.pdf)

Categories:

Animals—Domestic

Animal—Wildlife

Catch All

Details & Macro

Dominant Color

Elements of Design

Enhanced

Food

Landscape & Nature (non-animal)

Motion/Action

People

Plant/Flora

Sports

Theme—"Backyard"

Travel & Place

Still Life and Dominant Color Workshop

PHOTOGRAPHERS! Join us for a Still Life and Dominant Color Workshop on **Saturday, March 3rd from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the CEO**. This workshop will be taught by Texas 4-H Junior Master Photographer candidates and will include techniques for eye-catching table top photos and use of color to generate emotions. We will have lots of hands-on practice, so bring your camera, plenty of batteries, and a tripod if you have one. We will also have a photography-related community service so you will leave the workshop with plenty of new skills and great recordbook experiences!

Contact Christian or Elizabeth Coffman for more details: 254-718-1332, familycoffman@aol.com.

4-H Photography Project Upcoming Events

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.



Outdoor Project News

2018 Texas 4-H Outdoor Challenge

When: June 22-24, 2018

Where: Seguin Outdoor Learning Center

Cost: \$35 per person

Registration: on 4-H Connect by May 30, 2018, limited to first 50 teams

The 10 events for 2018 are: *Shotgun *Off-road Biking *Archery *Fishing *Climbing
*Kayaking *Rifle *Biologist Skills *Gear Judging *Outdoor Safety

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

District 8 Rifle Contest

Save the date! If you are interested in competing in the District 8 Rifle Contest that will take place on **Saturday, April 28th**, in Buffalo. Entry deadline is **Friday, April 20, 2018** on 4-H Connect. The 2 categories are Competitive Rifle Match & Provisional Light Rifle Match. More information will be posted on the Bell County 4-H website. Contact Sheryl Long if you have any questions regarding this contest.

4-H Indoor Archery Match

The deadline to enter the State 4-H Indoor Archery Match is fast approaching.

Fort Stockton: March 16-17, entry deadline of March 2nd

Bay City: March 23-24, entry deadline of March 2nd

Graham: March 16-17, entry deadline of March 2nd

Carrizo Springs: April 13-14, entry deadline of March 22nd

Registration is Conducted on line through 4-H Connect. Cost is \$30 per shooter.

For more information, visit <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018-Texas-4H-Indoor-Archery-Match-Info.pdf>

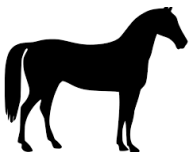
Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors

The Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors Program provides high school age 4-H members and youth an opportunity to gain advanced knowledge and practice leadership skills related to the science, technology, engineering, and management of water in Texas. By connecting with water professionals, Water Ambassadors will gain exposure and recognition as youth leaders, learn about internship opportunities, and explore the diverse career paths in the water industry. The Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors Program is led by Texas 4-H and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, and supported in part by the Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation.

Each year, up to (32) individuals are selected to join the Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors Program. Those selected will participate in a summer 4-H2O Youth

Applications open to youth entering 9th-11th grades for '18-'19 school year.

Deadline to apply is May 20, 2018.



Livestock Project News



Homeschool Eligibilities for Major Stock Shows

Bell County 4-H members that are homeschooled and entered in any Major Livestock Show (Houston and Austin) must fill out and submit your form to Scarlot Barreras as least one week prior to your beginning show date. One form per child per show. Let Sheryl or Scarlot know if you have any questions.

State Fair Tag Orders

4-H members who plan to show a **lamb, goat or barrow** at the State Fair of Texas in 2018 must order validation tags for the number of animals they plan to validate **by Friday, April 6th**. Come by the Extension Office to fill out your order form for your tags. Cost is \$20 per tag and must be paid for upfront!

Major Show Steer Tag & Heifer Barcode Orders

Bell County validations are **REQUIRING** everyone to order and pay for their tags up front rather than at time of validation. **ALL ORDERS MUST BE HANDLED THROUGH WHITNEY OR SHERYL AT THE CEO.**

It is time to order **STATE MARKET STEER & BREEDING HEIFER VALIDATION TAGS** for THE 2018 State Fair of Texas as well as all 2019 Spring Major shows (Fort Worth, San Angelo, San Antonio, Houston and Austin).

BCYF and State Market Steer/Breeding Heifer validation will be held **during the last week in June at the Bell County Expo Center.**

Cost of Tags: \$20/per Market Steer tag ordered.

\$15/per Breeding Heifer barcode ordered.

Deadline to have orders in the Extension Office WILL BE APRIL 6, 2018!

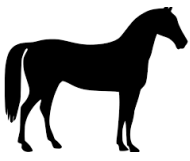
ORDERS NOT PAID, WILL NOT BE ORDERED.

~Upcoming District 8 4-H Contests~

If you want to participate in any of the following Spring District 8 Contests, you must notify the CEO by **Friday, March 23, 2018:**

*Horse Judging *Range Evaluation *Plant ID *Entomology Contest *Wool Contest *Mohair Contest
*Ag Product ID *Livestock Judging *Meat Judging *Soil *Livestock Skillathon

A lot of these contests are TEAM events so it takes planning on our part to align the teams. Make sure you notify us no later then March 23rd if you want to participate.



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.

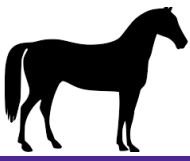
Selection Criteria:

- 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/jfe/form/SV_309MuXE8KeGj1sh
 - 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 1, 2018**. Applicants will be notified by June 15, 2018 regarding application result



Livestock Project News



Horse Validation

Its that time of year to validate your horse(s) for the District 8 Horse Show and Texas 4-H Horse Show! Some of the fields within the system have been updated, so families with existing horse profiles will need to update some of their information when validating. Validation will be open

March 1st – April 15th at \$10 per validation and \$20 from April 16 until May 1.

REMINDERS:

- Horses must be validated in 4-H Connect every year.
- Only one validation per horse each year is necessary (horses do not need to be validated under each siblings name)
- If the horse is registered then the registration papers must be uploaded during validation. The uploaded papers must be legible and the owner must be listed as the 4-Her, or a member of the 4-Hers immediate family (parent, sibling, grandparent, legal guardian).
- If the horse is grade (unregistered) then the field designated for the upload of registration papers should be left blank.
- Pictures need to be a visual representation of the horses color and markings (head and legs must be visible in right and left profile images and lighting should be sufficient to determine coat color)

Texas 4-H Equine Ambassadors

The Texas 4-H Equine 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 the equine industry in Texas.

Objectives:

- Prepare youth to serve in leadership capacities in Horse projects and 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 the Equine Industry, 4-H, and the horse programs.
- Develop a heightened awareness of career opportunities in the equine industry and advocacy.

Selection Criteria:

- Senior age (14-18) 4-H youth that have exhibited a superior level of ambition regarding horse projects
- Students with a profound interest in equine science and the horse industry in Texas
- 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/jfe/form/SV_esuzimQvlFSJcVf
 - Student will complete the application and enter the contact information of supervising County Extension Agent
 - CEA will be automatically emailed a recommendation survey

Applications are due **April 15, 2018**. Applicants will be notified by **early June, 2018** regarding the application results.



Important Dates

March 2018

April 2018

March 1: Bell County Fashion Show

March 1: 4-H Horse Validation Begins online

**March 2: Bell County Photography Contest Entry
Deadline**

March 2: Bell County 4-H Scholarship due to CEO

March 3: D8 CDM & NQB Contest, Waco

March 3: Photography Workshop

March 5: Ag Product ID Practice

March 12: Ag Product ID Practice

**March 15: Capital Farm Credit Scholarship due to
Temple Location**

March 15: Texas Brigades Application Due

March 17: Clover Kid Meeting

March 17: Bell County TEEA Style Show & Lunch

March 20: Club Manager Training, Online

March 23: District 8 Multi-Contest Entry Deadline

March 23: Bell County Round Up Entries Due

March 26: County Council Meeting

April 2: Ag Product ID Practice

April 5: Bell County Round Up

**April 6: State Fair Lamb, Goat, & Barrow Tag
Orders due to the CEO**

**April 6: Major Show Steer Tag & Heifer Barcode
Orders**

April 9: Ag Product ID Practice

April 12: MAB Committee Meetings

April 13: Bell County Youth Fair Scholarship Due

**April 15: TX 4-H Equine Ambassador Applica-
tions Due**

April 17: District 8 Fashion Show

April 20: District 8 Rifle Contest entry deadline

April 21: Clover Kid Meeting

April 24: Bell County Safety Day

April 24: Club Manager Training, Online

April 28: District 8 Rifle Contest, Buffalo



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://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".

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/>