

Bell County Staff:

Sheryl Austin

Cooperative Extension
Family & Community
Health

Tonya Elliott

4-H Program Assistant

Whitney Grantham

County Extension Agent
Natural Resources

Jonathon Rodriguez

BLT Extension Educator

Sheryl Long

County Extension Agent
4-H & Youth
Development

Jackie McLaughlin

County Extension Agent
Family & Community
Health

Lyle Zoeller

County Extension Agent
Agriculture

COVID-19 and 4-H Updates

We have official word that there will be no spring qualifying contests in any District. When (or if) State Roundup is held, all senior members will be invited to participate in their respective contest with three exceptions – Food Challenge/Show and Share-the-Fun. Specific plans will be shared as necessary for these contests if/when we get to that point.

AgriLife will host no face to face meetings, practices, contest, site visits, or programs of any kind through May 4th. You can reach us by calling the office or emailing us your question.

Our District 4-H Specialist is working on a host of workshops and other opportunities for our students to participate in throughout the spring.

In regards to SFT and Cattle tag orders. The state has not moved their deadline therefore our deadline is still set for April 15th. We encourage everyone to mail the form with payment to the Extension Office. If a return address is listed, a receipt will be mailed. When the Shelter In Place order is lifted in Bell County, you may drop off your order form and payment in the drop box located outside of our door.

Email or call our office if you have any questions.

With COVID-19 restrictions being updated frequently within Bell County and also the state, events and meetings are subject to change dates or move to an online platform. Be checking your emails for the latest updates from our office.



18 USC 707

1605 N. Main, Room 102

Belton, TX 76513

Phone: (254)933-5305

Fax: (254)933-5312

E-mail: bell@ag.tamu.edu Website: <http://agrilife.org/bell4h/>

Texas 4-H Congress

A select number of 4-H Delegates will be allotted to each district. So don't be late applying!!! Texas 4-H Congress allows 4-H members to experience the law making process first hand by writing, submitting, and then serving as a member of the House of Representatives, the Senate, the Press, or as a Lobbyist. From these roles, the 4-H members determine the fate of each bill submitted.

Submission of Legislative Bills

Any 4-H member, regardless of age or planning on attending Texas 4-H Congress, must submit a legislative bill for consideration. Participation in the bill writing exercise allows 4-H members the opportunity to become engaged in the legislative process and the 4-H citizenship project. 4-H members attending Texas 4-H Congress will be required to submit at least one bill (this includes Texas 4-H Council, Tech Team, etc) prior to their registration to the event being accepted. To learn more on how to write and submit a bill download the "[Preparing a Legislative Bill for Texas 4-H Congress](#)" as well as work with your county Extension agent or a volunteer. [Submit your bill online from January 1, - May 29, 2020.](#)

Selection Process

Anyone meeting the eligibility requirements needs let Sheryl Long know so she can put your name on the county list by **April 15, 2020**. The selection process will be ranked by the following priority:

1. Members who have NOT attended before
2. First priority – graduated seniors and current 11th graders (from the 2019-2020 school year)
3. Second priority – current (2019-2020 school year) 9th and 10th graders
4. Third priority – current (2019-2020 school year) 8th graders
5. Fourth priority – anyone who has attended before

Pay close attention to deadlines!

Texas 4-H Congress Calendar

Event dates—July 12-15, 2020

January 1, 2020, [Bill submission opens](#)– You MUST submit a bill to participate!!!

April 1-30, 2020, Early Bird Registration on 4-H Connect

May 1, 2018, [Online 4HConnect Registration Continues](#)

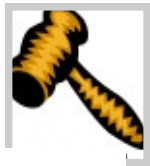
May 19, 2020, Bill submission closes—You MUST submit a bill to participate!!!

May 29, 2020, Online Registration closes

Fore more information, go to <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/events/congress/>



County Council & Ambassadors



County Council Meeting

WHEN: May 7th

WHERE: CEO **START TIME:** 6:30 pm

The Bell County 4-H Council will be electing officers for the 2020-2021 4-H year during the May meeting. To run for an officer position, you must submit an Intent to Run form to the County Extension Office on or before **April 30th**. 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/>

The Community service is the collection of canned food items.

Hope to see everyone at the May meeting!

2020-2021 County Council Elections and Intent to Run Forms

If you are interested in being a Council Officer for the 2020-2021 4-H year, read the Council Officer Elections Handbook and fill out an Intent to Run Form. Email the form to Sheryl Long & Dawn Brown by April 30, 2020 (NO EXCEPTIONS) to be eligible to run for an office on Election Day, May 7, 2020. All information about the election is posted on the Bell County 4-H Council website.

NEW THIS YEAR! - EVERYTHING must be EMAILED to Sheryl.Long@ag.tamu.edu.

No applications will be accepted at the office.

Ambassadors Applications for 2020-2021

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 31st on the year of application. **Submit a complete application, due on May 8, 2020.** 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 8, 2020**, of the current 4-H year to be considered for renewal. (Recordbook is also a requirement and is due **June 5, 2020**)

Please turn in point sheets with renewal application!

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

NEW THIS YEAR! - EVERYTHING must be EMAILED to Sheryl.Long@ag.tamu.edu. No applications or renewals will be accepted at the office.

4-H Club Managers & Volunteers

Membership Advisory Board Committee Meeting (By-Laws, Finance Guidelines and Nominations)

When: April 23, 2020

Where: Online, Zoom meeting

Time: 6:00 pm

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this will now be an online Zoom meeting. If you are interested in participating, Sheryl will post the link on the Bell County 4-H website under the MAB tab.

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 Guidelines.

Contact Sheryl Long if you have any questions.

Membership Advisory Board Meeting

When: May 26, 2020

Where: CEO

Time: 6:00 pm

This meeting will elect new officers for Vice President and Treasurer, vote on the MAB by-laws changes and vote on the Finance Guideline changes. All parents and leaders are also invited to attend.

Contact Sheryl Long if you have any questions.

Upcoming Events

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

Applicants must be:

- in high school or entering high school for the 2020/2021 academic year,
 - be 14 years of age or older by August 31, 2020
- be a current 4-H member, OR be willing to join a local 4-H club if selected

Deadline to apply is May 1, 2020.

Angel Maternity Shelter Community Service

In light of our current situation with COVID-19 the donation drive for Our Lady of the Angels Maternity Shelter is now extended through June 30th. Items will be collected at the CEO.

For questions, please call or e-mail Ashley Candelas

Phone: (254) 768-8083 **E-mail:** CandelasAshley@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

District 8 4-H Contests

There will be no spring qualifying contests in any District. When (or if) State Roundup is held, all senior members will be invited to participate in their respective contest with three exceptions – Food Challenge/Show and Share-the-Fun. Specific plans will be shared as necessary for these contests if/when we get to that point.

All this to say, that we will indeed not be hosting any district contests this spring, with the exception of the Photography contest.

SENIORS! 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 information.

Bell County Youth Fair Scholarship—**April 13**

District 8 TAE4-HA Scholarship—**May 22**

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

Clover Kids Meeting Dates for 2019-2020

Location: Temple Public Library, 3rd floor McLane Room

Time: 2-4pm

April 18—**CANCELED**

May 16

Clover Kids Fair - June 20, 2020

Clover Kids Recordbooks Due - July 10, 2020

Clover Kids Summer Camp - July 18, 2020

For more information, contact Dawn Brown at bc4hcloverkids@yahoo.com.

4-H Recordbook Workshop

What: Recordbook Workshop

Where: Online

When: April 9th, 2020 @ 6:15

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this will now be an online Zoom program.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/463152131>

Meeting ID: 463 152 131

Bell County Record Books

Due: June 5, 2020 to the CEO

Where: CEO by 5pm

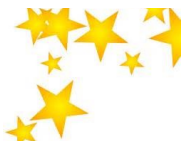
If you would like Sheryl to review your recordbook BEFORE the June 5th FINAL submission date, then please give her your recordbook ASAP. We will trade record books with Williamson counties on June 25th for those who want to help us judge.

We will be judging in Williamson County.

District 8 Record Books will be judged on July 9th in McLennan County.

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





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 8, 2020!** The essay should include the following:

Name of Person Making Nomination

Leader Nominated

Why do you think this leader is an outstanding leader?

What does this leader do that is outstanding?

How has this leader helped you?

How has this leader helped others?

NEW THIS YEAR! - EVERYTHING must be EMAILED to Sheryl.Long@ag.tamu.edu.

No applications will be accepted at the office.

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 8, 2020**. Award Interviews will be later in May at the Bell County Extension Office. Record books for county competition will be due on **June 5, 2020**. Awards age based on 4-H Grade as of August 31, 2019

Graduating seniors for the 2109 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/>

NEW THIS YEAR! - EVERYTHING must be EMAILED to Sheryl.Long@ag.tamu.edu.

No applications will be accepted at the office.

4-H Award Interviews

When: June 23, 2020

Where: CEO Board Room

Those that have submitted an awards application, Sheryl will be emailing you to schedule interview times. Interviews will take place before 5:00 pm. Due to the uncertainty ahead of us with COVID-19, please be checking your emails to receive updates and changes.

At Home Resources & Activities

Heart O' Texas Fair Video Contest

The Heart O' Texas Livestock Show presents a new and exciting opportunity for 4-H and FFA students! The Video Contest is a creative way for students to discuss agriculture and earn scholarships.

Theme: Why is the agricultural industry important in today's global situation?

Participants will submit a one (1) – two (2) minute video over the theme. Contestants must have a YouTube account. The video must be uploaded to YouTube by April 17, 2020. After the video has been uploaded, a link to the video, as well as the Statement of Originality Form, must be sent to rachel@hotfair.com by April 17, 2020. The top three videos in each division will be posted on the Heart O' Texas Fair & Rodeo Facebook page for voting on April 20, 2020. Voting will close on April 24, 2020. The winner of each division will be announced on April 27, 2020.

<https://www.hotfair.com/events/2020/video-contest>

Fashion Storyboard Invitational

4-H Storyboard is now an invitational contest! Any Senior aged 4-H member can enter 1 storyboard in the category of their choice. Categories include: Wearable, Accessory, Jewelry, Pet Clothing, Home Décor, Home Furnishings. Storyboards can be created in a digital format or by creating a physical board (submit a picture of the board). Entries can be uploaded into 4-H Connect between April 15th- May 12th. Go to the link contest guidelines and uploading instructions. For more information

For more information: http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/fashion_storyboard_uploading_2020.pdf

Virtual 4-H STEM Space Camp

The Virtual 4-H STEM Space Camp for 3rd to 5th grade students. Each week we will release a new experiment with educational and how-to videos.

This camp is FREE for anyone to participate! We only ask you to fill out the Registration Form via the link provided to access our Campsite where the experiments will be released every Monday morning at 10am CT. (4/6, 4/13, & 4/20)

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdlqxFidahTBHmMexVQy92KzCaEyiQU40xalo8lMbQNYeqWew/viewform>

New 4-H Art Camp

We are excited to present to you our Virtual 4-H Art Camp for 9th to 12th grade students. Each week we will release a new lesson with easy to follow instructions and pictures, that can be completed at your own pace.

This camp is FREE for anyone to participate! We only ask you to fill out the Registration Form via the link provided to access our Camp website where the lessons will be released every Monday morning (4/6, & 4/13).

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd1ESy7J8kfl40ZX322r60hermJ7pjop9GB9COVCacxBpzX3g/viewform>

At Home Resources & Activities

30-Day Photo Challenge

At the button you will find a new 30-Day Photography Challenge for the month of April. The intent is to give youth some photography challenges during this time when most will still be sequestered at home. This is not a contest, but simply a personal challenge youth can complete on their own to hone their skills. As a reminder, the Texas 4-H Photography Contest registration will go live April 1 and end on April 15. This contest is only open to senior 4-H members. The complete rules and other educational resources can be downloaded from this page: <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/photography-video/>

Texas 4-H Photography Project Facebook page and group: <https://www.facebook.com/TX4Hphotography/> The purpose of this page is for Texas 4-H Photography project members and leaders to ask questions, announce learning opportunities, share resources, and serve as a community of support. The group within the page is a place where youth can share their photos and seek constructive critique from leaders and peers.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zU9YZMnlw5nPKkJzWRPeO-vMsezV4JRN/view>

Texas 4-H Virtual Experience

Join Texas 4-H on Facebook LIVE at 10 am on the days listed below for some fun, interactive lessons and activities for youth of all ages!

Natural Resources—April 7,8,9

Junior Master Gardeners—April 14, 15, 16

Leadership & Citizenship—April 21, 22, 23

“Like” Texas 4-H on Facebook

Meat Judging

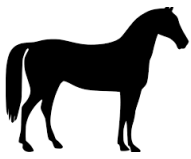
Nora Whitson is offering an Retail ID contest for the entire month of April. One cut per day. Text answer to Nora’s cell phone: 254-449-1475

Species, Primal, Retail, Cookery

Nora will post updated scores every 3 days. Anyone can participate. Contact Nora for more information.

NEW Information and Events

Moving forward in this new virtual world, events and activities happen fast! Be checking the Bell County 4-H Facebook page and your emails to keep up to date with the latest information.



Livestock Project News



Tag Orders due April 15TH!

It is time to order:

BCYF/STATE MARKET STEER TAGS

2020 State Fair of Texas, 2020 HOT Fair, 2021 BCYF, and 2021 Spring Major shows
(Fort Worth, San Angelo, San Antonio, Houston, and Austin)

REGISTERED BREEDING HEIFER VALIDATION BARCODES

2020 State Fair of Texas, 2020 HOT Fair, 2021 BCYF, and 2021 Spring Major shows
(Fort Worth, San Angelo, San Antonio, Houston, and Austin)

2020 STATE FAIR OF TEXAS MARKET LAMBS, MARKET GOATS, MARKET BARROWS AND REGISTERED BREEDING GILTS

2020 HEART O' TEXAS FAIR REGISTERED BREEDING GILTS

Bell County validations require all 4-H and FFA members to order and pay for their tags prior to validation.

ALL ORDERS MUST BE HANDLED THROUGH THE CEO.

COSTS OF TAGS PAYABLE TO THE BELL LIVESTOCK COALITION

STEERS: \$20 / tag ordered

HEIFERS: \$15 / barcode ordered

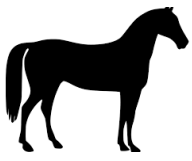
LAMB: \$20 / tag ordered

GOAT: \$20 / tag ordered

SWINE: \$20 / tag ordered

Deadline to have orders in the Extension Office WILL BE APRIL 15, 2020!

ORDERS NOT PAID, WILL NOT BE ORDERED.



Livestock Project News



Horse Validation

It's 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
- If the horse is registered then the registration papers must be uploaded during validation. 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.

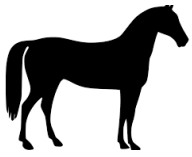
Selection Criteria:

- 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 https://agrilife.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eVUuz6NEngnkqsB
 - 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 up to 25 participants per short course

Applications are due **May 1, 2020.**



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.

Selection Criteria:

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



Application Process:

Applicant goes to: https://agrilife.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b9knd7h0VXkbNKB

- a. Student will complete the application and enter the contact information of supervising CEA
- b. CEA will be automatically emailed a recommendation survey
- c. A selection committee will review the applications and accept up to 25 participants per university
- d. Applications are due **May 1, 2020**

2020 Texas 4-H Livestock Ambassador Short Courses:

Texas A&M Kingsville – June 22-25, 2020

Texas Tech/ West Texas A&M – July 13-16, 2020

Texas A&M – July 20-23, 2020



Texas 4-H Dog Show

Entry Deadline: May 8, 2020

The Texas 4-H Dog Show is scheduled to be held on **July 10-11, 2020** in Huntsville, Texas at the Walker County Fairgrounds. The entry system on 4-H CONNECT opened on April 1, 2020 and regular entry will close on **May 8, 2020**. There are two separate events depending on whether you have validated a dog and intend to show or a never validated dog you intend to enter in the Foster/Family Dog program, Photography Contest or are a 4-H Dog Project Leader volunteering to assist. They are the following:

Validated dogs look for **2020: State: TX: 2020 State 4-H Dog Show** - You can enter the dog you are going to show, photographs for the Photo Contest and your parent can sign up to help.

Foster/Family Dog Program look for **2020: State: TX: 2020 Auxiliary Texas 4-H Dog Show** - If your dog has never been validated, you can enter the Foster/Family Dog program (page 10 of the Rule Book has a detailed explanation), photographs for the Photo Contest and your parent can sign up to help.

Photo Contest look for **2020: State: TX: 2020 Auxiliary Texas 4-H Dog Show** - You can enter your photographs. You do not have to own a dog or be a member of the Dog Care and Training project to enter dog related photos in this contest.

Having the Texas 4-H Dog Show Rule Book handy will be helpful completing the entries. It has information about which classes you should enter for each event. You can download a copy from <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/dog-care-training>

Important Dates

April 2020

April 9: 4-H Recordbook Workshop
April 13: BCYF Scholarship App Due
April 15: \$10 Horse Validation Deadline
April 15: State Fair Market Lambs, Market Goats, Market Barrow Tag Order Deadline
April 15: State Fair and HOT Fair Breeding Gilt Tag Order Deadline
April 15: Major Show Steer & Heifer Tag Order Deadline
April 15: Texas 4-H Congress deadline to Sheryl Long
April 23: MAB Committee Meeting, ONLINE
April 30: County Council Intent To Run Form Deadline

May 2020

May 1: Texas 4-H Water Ambassador Deadline
May 1: Horse Validation Deadline
May 1: Texas 4-H Equine Ambassador Deadline
May 1: Texas 4-H Livestock Ambassador Deadline
May 7: County Council Meeting
May 8: BC 4-H Ambassador Application Deadline
May 8: Adult Leader Award Apps Due
May 8: BC 4-H Awards App Due
May 8: Texas 4-H Dog Show Entry Deadline
May 16: Clover Kid Meeting
May 22: D8 TAE4-HA Scholarship Deadline
May 26: MAB Meeting
May 29: 4-H Connect deadline for Texas 4-H Congress

June 2020

June 5: Bell County 4-H Recordbooks Due
June 20: Clover Kids Fair
June 23: 4-H Award Interviews

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

BELL COUNTY
4-H NEWSLETTER

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

Shel 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/>