

# December 2020 Focus

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

Congratulations to Casin Sellears. He was selected to serve on the Texas 4-H Shooting Sports Team that will represent Texas at the national championships in June of 2021 !



Thank you to all of you who have entered the Food Show/Food Challenge contests. Be sure to check out the Bell 4-H website for placings!

*Merry  
Christmas*



*Bell County 4-H*

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/>



# 4-H Enrollment

4-H Enrollment started **August 15th!** All enrollment is done via the NEW 4HOnline 2.0. You can access 4HOnline 2.0 by going to our 4-H website at <http://agrilife.org/bell4h/> and clicking on the 4HOnline icon. If you had a family profile in the old 4-H Connect System, that log in information will be the same in the new 4HOnline 2.0. The website link will not change either.

**A youth that is 8 years old and going into the 3rd grade must wait until September 1st to enroll for correct fees to be charged.**

To maintain the level of programming and opportunities in the Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program, an annual participant fee is implemented for each 4-H member (excluding Clover Kids). The participant fee is \$25 if enrolled from **August 15th to October 31st**, November 1st the participant fee will increase to **\$30**. **Please do not worry if you are still pending at the county level once you have enrolled.** The county office will try to keep up as best as we can by approving them at least once a week. As long as you complete your enrollment, you are in the system and good for enrollment and BCYF requirements. Enrollment dues must be paid by an electronic payment.

For instructions on how to enroll, please visit:

<http://agrilife.org/bell4h/4-h-enrollment-guidelines/4-h-enrollment-information/>

All volunteers who enroll will be charged \$10.00. This covers your screening for the year. All volunteers will have to re-enroll each year. Club Managers must enroll ASAP!

If you have further questions, please contact the County Extension Office at: 254-933-5305

## 4-H Age /Grade Requirements

Texas 4-H membership eligibility will be based on SCHOOL GRADE and not age. The eligibility rules and guidelines are:

Youth may participate in 4-H year from September 1st of grade three through August 31st following completion of grade twelve, with these age restrictions:

Minimum age - 8 (as of August 31, 2020 and in the 3rd grade)

Maximum age - 18 (as of August 31, 2020)

4-H Member Categories

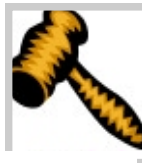
Juniors: Grades 3, 4, and 5

Intermediates: Grades 6, 7, and 8

Seniors: Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12



# County Council & Ambassadors



## County Council Meeting Dates

Dates and programs have been set for the 2020-2021 Bell County Council meetings. These meetings will take place at the Bell County Extension Office starting at 6:30 pm.

Date	Meeting Program	Community Service Projects
January 13	State 4-H Officers	Nursing Home Donations & Door Decorating
March 31	Honey Bees	Crayon Initiative
May 5	Council Officer Elections	Canned Food Drive

## County Council Meeting

**WHEN:** January 13, 2021

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

The council delegate and the president of each club are the two representatives who will serve as voting delegates on the Bell County 4-H County Council. These two representative are encouraged to attend all council meetings. All 4-H members are welcome! Council meetings are a lot of fun, so come and learn about the county 4-H program and vote on exciting new 4-H opportunities.

The program for the evening will be the **State 4-H Officers**. We are fortunate to have 2 state officers this year!

The Community Service project will be a **Nursing Home Donations and Door Decorating supplies**. We are hoping to be able to get into the Nursing Homes by the end of January to decorate the doors of the residents for Valentines Day!

Be checking your email to see if this program will be switched to a virtual program!

**Hope to see everyone at the January meeting!**

## Council/Ambassador Christmas Party

The County Council Officer and Ambassador Christmas party is **CANCELED!** Due to the new guidelines set in place by Texas A&M AgriLife we can not meet face to face in December. Sorry! I was really looking forward to our annual Christmas Party!

# 4-H Club Managers & Volunteers

## COVID-19 and 4-H Updates

Until further notice, you must have an appointment when visiting the Extension Office. This helps us maintain the number of visitors and staff in our office at one time. Mask are mandatory.

For 4-H events such as contest practices, shooting sports practices, etc. You may only continue if you have 10 OR LESS people in attendance at that event. The 10 includes parents, coaches, kids, and anyone else in attendance. I foresee the number 10 or less being hard to achieve in any of our events. If you think your event qualifies, you must submit a preparedness plan for approval PRIOR TO your event. Face coverings and social distancing are still a requirement if the event is approved

## 4-H Club Meetings

Due to the rise in the number of COVID-19 cases in Bell County, we have been labeled as code "yellow." What does that mean for us? That means from here forward, our 4-H Club meetings need to go virtual. We can no longer meet face to face or in person until further notice from me. For those clubs that have already submitted and received approval from Preparedness Plans, those are null and void. We will follow the guidelines set in place from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension.

## Membership Advisory Board Finance Meeting

**When:** January 5, 2021

**Where:** CEO

**Time:** 6:00 pm

The MAB Finance Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 5th. All Club Managers and Adult Leaders are invited! We will revisit the Annual Initial Budget to see which line items can be revised. If you have receipts that you want to looked at for reimbursement, you need to send those to Sheryl.long@ag.tamu.edu ASAP!

Currently, our meeting will be held in person at the CEO. Due to ever changing guidelines from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, we may have to change it to virtual close to the event date.

## Membership Advisory Board Meeting

**When:** January 19, 2021

**Where:** CEO

**Time:** 6:00 pm

This meeting is open to all parents and leaders! We encourage all Club Managers to attend and give their opinions on the Bell County 4-H program. We are shooting for an in-person meeting this time!

## BCYF Container Pick Up

Attention Club Managers! You can start picking up your food containers on **January 4th** at the CEO for your participants competing in the 2021 BCYF Food Division. Our business hours are Monday-Friday 8:00 am -12:00 & 1:00- 5:00 pm. This is for Club Managers ONLY!

# Upcoming Events

## Hunter's Spectacular Wrap Up Meeting

**Date:** December 14, 2020

**Time:** 6:00 pm

**Location:** Zoom

This meeting will be held via Zoom due to our news guidelines set in place by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. We will discuss how well the 2020 event was and start planning for the 2021 event. Please be prepared to discuss what worked or didn't work with the 2020 event and bring new and inventive ideas for 2021.

The zoom link will be posted on the Bell County 4-H Website.

## Clover Kids Meeting Dates for 2020-2021

**Time:** 2-4pm

**Location:** To be announced via email

January 16

February 20

March 20

April 17

May 15

**Clover Kids Fair** - June 19, 2021

**Clover Kids Recordbooks Due** - July 9, 2021

**Clover Kids Summer Camp** - July 17, 2021

For more information, contact Dawn Brown at [bc4hcloverkids@yahoo.com](mailto:bc4hcloverkids@yahoo.com).

## Texas 4-H Scholarship Training

The in-person Texas 4-H Scholarship Training that was schedule for **Tuesday, December 8th** has been canceled due to the new guidelines set in place by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. If you planned on attending this event, please makes plans to attend the virtual Scholarship Training on December 15, 2020. Please email [Sheryl.Long@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Sheryl.Long@ag.tamu.edu) if you have any questions or want to participate in the virtual event.

## Graduating 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 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.



# FCH Project News



## District 8 Food Show & Food Challenge Contest—UPDATE

### ***Food Show***

Due to new COVID restrictions and guidelines, we will not host a face-to-face contest this year. We will, however, host a virtual contest. ***Because we will host this contest 100% virtually, we will host this contest on Monday, December 7th*** (instead of December 3<sup>rd</sup>). We have also moved the contest to the afternoon, to allow a little more time for preparation. This schedule is attached.

### ***Food Challenge***

Due to the limitations in number of people we are able to host at one time, ***Food Challenge will only be conducted for the Seniors at this time***. We will host another contest day for our Junior & Intermediate teams, later in the spring (we will make this announcement as we are able).

For our senior teams, we have moved the contest location to Gatesville, in Coryell County. We will host the contest at the **Gatesville Civic Center** (301 Veteran’s Memorial Loop, Gatesville, TX 76528) on **Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**. We will run this contest in 6 heats, to allow for a limited number of people at a time. Please pay extra close attention to the time you are to check-in. We will NOT have a holding area for parents, coaches, etc. You will not be able to enter the building until your assigned check-in time. I have attached that schedule.

### **Registration & Payment**

We will not approve our registrations until the conclusion of the contests. Please note that if you are registered for both contests (as a junior/intermediate), we will work to take the food challenge part off of your registration. (When we are able to host a make-up contest, we will do a new registration for that)

### **Awards**

All awards will be announced via Facebook (recorded and uploaded to YouTube) and posted on our District 8 4-H Website at the conclusion of each contest. All awards will be mailed to your County Extension Office for you to pick up at your convenience. (Facebook Page Link: <https://www.facebook.com/District84H>) (YouTube Link: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjk-MkIX8h39nilvnjO-dpA?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjk-MkIX8h39nilvnjO-dpA?view_as=subscriber)) (D8 4-H Website: <https://agrilife.org/d84h/events-and-activities/food-challenge-food-show/>)

## Consumer Decision Making

Do you like to shop? Learn how to save money while shopping in the consumer decision making project. You’ll learn how to compare prices, test for quality and make purchases based on facts and research. You will also improve your: Money management skills, Smart purchasing skills and Decision-making skills.

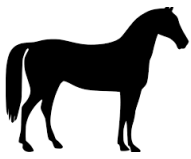
This contest is based on the skills of consumer observation, comparison, and the ability to make a fact-based purchases. Each participant is expected to defend their purchases to a panel of judges.

For more information, contact Barbara Wood at [woodbtwice@gmail.com](mailto:woodbtwice@gmail.com)

## Family & Community Health (FCH) Quiz Bowl

A “Quiz Bowl” is a quiz game that tests teams of 4 on their knowledge of basic nutrition, consumer information, food and kitchen safety, food preparation skills and storage, and health. Up against the clock, the 4-Hers buzz in to answer a question and earn points for correct answers. Teams advance in a tournament-system bracket to win the competition.

For more information, contact Barbara Wood at [woodbtwice@gmail.com](mailto:woodbtwice@gmail.com)



# Livestock Project News



## Poultry Exhibitors

**BCYF Roaster:** Birds will arrive on **December 11th** and can be picked up between 3:30-5:30 pm

**BCYF Broilers:** Birds will arrive in **January 8th** and can be picked up between 3:30-5:30 pm

## Texas 4-H Dog Validation

The 2021 Texas 4-H Dog Show is scheduled to be held July 9-10, 2021 at the Walker County Fairgrounds in Huntsville, Texas. To participate in the Texas 4-H Dog Show, you must validate your dogs by **January 10, 2021**. This process is done through 4-H Connect and there is no charge at this time. Detailed instructions can be found at the site <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/dog-care-training/>

None of the previously validated dogs carried over to 4-H Online. Everyone will need to complete the full online validation form and upload photos this year. Members are encouraged to validate any dogs they are eligible to show in the event situations change through the year.

If you have any questions, please contact the Bell County Extension Office.

# Bell County Youth Fair

## February 6-13, 2021

### Important Announcements!

More information can be found on the BCYF Website: <https://agrillife.org/bellctyyouthfair/> [2021 Fair Book](#) is now posted and available for you to print. [2021 Show Schedule](#) (subject to change) is also available online. Start entering the BCYF 2021online now at <https://bell.fairwire.com/> ! All entries MUST be submitted and paid for online by **5pm on December 1, 2020**. Please feel free to call the fair office if you have any questions.

### Bell County Youth Fair Eligibility

Club Managers, 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.

- 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. Your name MUST be on the sign in sheets for it to count.
- 2 meetings will be allowed from **August 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020** 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 10, 2020** to participate in the BCYF. However, the fee will go up after October 31<sup>st</sup> so do it quickly.

### CHANGES this Year!

- **Added Intermediate Showmanship** to Cattle, Swine, Goats, Sheep, Rabbit and Poultry. Juniors (3-5th Grade); Intermediate (6-8th Grade); and Senior (9-12th Grade). You MUST enter showmanship online at the same time as your other entries, or pay the late entry fee of \$250 on the day of show.
- **Swine:**
  - \* Breeding Swine will be classified at weigh in.
  - \* Berkshire class has been added in Market & Breeding.
  - \* Show order: Light OPB, Yorks, Duroc, Crosses, Dark OPB, Berkshires, Hamps

### Important Dates

<b>Entry Deadline</b>	December 1, 2020	5 pm
<b>Rabbits Validation</b>	January 10, 2021	3 pm -5 pm
<b>Weigh Out Comm. Steers</b>	January 30, 2021	8:00 am
<b>Commercial Steer Recordbooks Due</b>	February 5, 2021	5 pm

### Other Important Information

BCYF Schedule is subject to change to comply with COVID-19 restrictions.

Make sure you are giving your Club Manager a good phone number and email to reach you. You will miss important information and deadlines if you don't check your emails!



# Bell County Youth Fair

## February 6-13, 2021

### BCYF Horse Exhibitor Ride Nights

**Speed Events:** January 25, February 1, February 4, 6:00 pm—9:00 pm

**Performance Events:** January 26, February 2, 6:00 –9:00 pm

February 5, 3:00 pm—7:00 pm

**Boxing Practice:** February 5, 7:00—9:00 pm

### BCYF Home School Eligibility

The Homeschool Eligibility deadline is January 10, 2021 by 5:00 pm. 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, 2020.

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

### BCYF Photography Upload

READ THE YOUTH FAIR INFORMATION starting on page 107. For those that entered pictures in the Bell County Youth Fair , you may start uploading pictures on January 4, 2021. until 5:00 pm on January 15, 2021.

The website to upload pictures is <http://agrillife.org/bellctyouthfair>

There is a photography upload tutorial on the Bell County Youth Fair website. Feel free to contact the superintendent if you have any questions.



# Important Dates

December 2020

January 2020

**December 1: BCYF Entry Deadline**

**December 3: District 8 Food Challenge—SENIORS**

**December 7: Virtual D8 Food Show**

**December 8: Texas 4-H Scholarship Training—  
CANCELED**

**December 9: Vet Science Skills Practice**

**December 11: BCYF Roaster Pick Up**

**December 14: Hunter's Spectacular Wrap Up Meeting**

**December 15: Texas 4-H Scholarship Training—  
VIRTUAL**

**December 10: BCYF 4-H Enrollment Deadline**

**December 16: Vet Science Meeting**

**December 24: COUNYT HOLIDAY**

**December 25: COUNTY HOLIDAY**

**January 4: BCYF Container Pick Up—Club Managers**

**January 4: BCYF Photography Upload Starts**

**January 5: MAB Finance Meeting**

**January 8: BCYF Broiler Pick Up**

**January 10: BCYF Rabbit Validation**

**January 10: BCYF Home School Eligibility Due**

**January 13: County Council Meeting**

**January 14: District 8 Reasons Clinic**

**January 15: BCYF Photography Upload ENDS**

**January 16: Clover Kids Meeting**

**January 19: MAB Meeting**

**January 20: Vet Science Skills Practice**

**January 25: BCYF Ride Night—SPEED**

**January 26: BCYF Ride Night—PERFORMANCE**

**January 30: BCYF Commercial Steer Weigh Out**

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/>