

January 2021 Focus

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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!

4-H Ambassadors at the Bell County Youth Fair

Make sure you check your emails and respond to Sheryl/Whitney on which BCYF events you can assist with.

Judging Contests—Friday, February 12th (if not participating in the event)

Family & Consumer Science Judging—Monday, February 8th, time TBD

There may be more opportunities to volunteer but we don't have specifics yet. Be checking your emails!

4-H Club Managers & Volunteers

COVID-19 and 4-H Updates

Due to the rise in the number of COVID-19 cases in Bell County, we have been labeled as code “red.” What does that mean for us? For 4-H events such as contest practices, shooting sports practices, etc. you may only meet in person if you meet one of the following criteria:

- Group INDOOR events **at 25% capacity** of space or less are allowed only if social distancing can be practiced. Events must be approved by supervisor through a preparedness plan.
 - Group OUTDOOR events may be held **with a maximum of 30 people**.

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. Be checking your emails for updates from Sheryl Long on when this directive is updated. We will follow the guidelines set in place from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension.

4-H Club Meetings

Due to the rise in the number of COVID-19 cases in Bell County, we have been labeled as code “red.” 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. Be checking your emails for updates from Sheryl Long on when this directive is updated. 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 be submitted for reimbursement, you need to send those to Sheryl.long@ag.tamu.edu ASAP!

This is now an online meeting 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!

Scholarships

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.

2021 Scholarships Available!

State Fair of Texas Scholarship — **February 1**

Texas 4-H Foundation FINAL Application due ONLINE—**February 15**

Texas Extension Education Association—**February 12** to the Bell CEO, must be accompanied by 4-H Record-book

Houston Livestock Show Exhibitor & Go Texan Scholarship— **February 22**

Bell County 4-H Scholarship—to CEO by **March 5**

San Angelo Livestock Show Scholarship— **April 1**

Bell County Youth Fair—**April 12**

Capital Farm Credit Scholarship—**TBD**

District 8 TAE4-HA Scholarship—**TBD**

Heart O' Texas Fair & Rodeo Scholarship—**TBD**

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



Upcoming Events

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.

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, February 26th**. 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 county contest, will also advance to State. Please make sure and follow the instruction on the 2020 Texas 4-H Photography Contest Rules & Guidelines. http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/photography_contest_rules_guidelines_2020.pdf

Categories:

Animals—Domestic	Leading Line
Animal—Wildlife	Long Exposure
Catch All	Motion/Action
Details & Macro	People
Elements of Design	Plant/Flora
Enhanced	Shadow/Silhouette
Food	Theme—"Forced Perspective"
Landscape & Nature (non-animal)	

Ag Product ID

The BCYF Ag Product ID contest is scheduled for Friday, February 12, 2021. The entry fee is \$10 per participant. Late entry fee will be \$15 on the day of the contest. At this time, an in-person contest is still being planned. Registration will be handled through the CEO. With the restriction on in-person practices, practice tests will be emailed. If you are interest in participating in the contest, please contact Michael Canales by email at guajeman1@gmail.com or 254-541-6293.

CDM & Livestock Reasons Clinic

District 8 4-H will host a CDM & Livestock Reasons workshop on **January 14th** via zoom. We have a great lineup of guest speakers to talk on both contests.

RCDM Speakers: Tanya Davis, Luis Saldana and Mallory McDaniel

Livestock Speakers: Whitney Grantham and Kinsey Gardner

Registration will be required by **January 8th** so that we can send the link out before the workshop. That link is <https://forms.gle/k3KRL4zd6HUsqQnf9>
Please let me know if you have any questions.



FCH Project News



Bell County Fashion Show Contest & Storyboard & Duds to Dazzle Contests

The Bell County 4-H contests for Fashion Show and Storyboard will take place on **Monday, March 8th**. Entry deadline will be **Monday, February 22nd**.

Start working on your projects now!

You will designate whether or not you want to compete in the Duds to Dazzle contest. Extension Agents will make team assignments after the entry deadline. You **will not** pre-determine your team. Entry forms can be found on the Bell County 4-H website.

Please email the forms to Sheryl.Long@ag.tamu.edu.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions ever changing, please be checking your emails and the website for contest updates! All events are subject to change.

FCH Quiz Bowl

Good luck to the Senior FCH Quiz Bowl team as they compete on January 9th with the National FCS Bowl! Senior FCS Quiz Bowl team members are: Ashley Candelas, Joseph Candelas, Matthew Hampton, & Catarina Salazar-Canales.

Anyone wanting to participate in the upcoming FCH Quiz Bowl practices should contact Barbara Wood at woodbtwice@gmail.com.

VIRTUAL PRACTICES FOR CONSUMER DECISION MAKING

When: January 15, 22, & 29, at 7:00 p.m.

What you need: internet or cell phone data access, clipboard, paper, pencils, & calculator

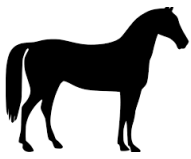
Contact Barbara Wood at woodbtwice@gmail.com to get on the invite list in order to participate and to also receive a study guide link.

ReFashion Retreat

After careful consideration by the Refashion Retreat Team, we have decided to move the retreat to February 12-14 instead of January 29-31. This will hopefully allow the potential spike of COVID-19 from the holidays to subside and restrictions on extension events to be lowered.

We do have a backup plan being developed as well. We will be working on holding a virtual event February 12-14 if in-person events are still not allowed. The price and registration process for the virtual event will change and we will keep you updated on that. The decision on in-person vs. virtual will be made by the end of January when we have more guidance to move forward into February.

All registration for 4-H Center events is on hold. If you or a 4-H member would like to be put on the registration list for this retreat, please email Cari, cari.snider@ag.tamu.edu and she will put you on the list.



Livestock Project News



Poultry Exhibitors

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

Houston & Austin Broiler Pick Up: Pick up will be Friday, January 29th, 2021.

Whitney Grantham will provide specific pick up instructions to those who purchased birds for majors by email.

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.

Homeschool Eligibilities for Major Stock Shows

Bell County 4-H members that are homeschooled and entered in any Major Livestock Show (San Antonio, San Angelo, Houston and Austin) must fill out and submit your form to Scarlot Barreras **at least one week prior** to your beginning show or contest date. Please use one form per child, per show.

Let Whitney, Sheryl, or Scarlot know if you have any questions.

Livestock & Meats Judging Teams

Several in-person contest opportunities are scheduled for February and March. An entry form for these contests will be sent to team members. Entries for upcoming contest are due to the CEO by January 29th, 2021.

If you would like more information about these judging teams and future opportunities, please contact:

Livestock Judging Coach, Whitney Ingram at whitney.grantham@ag.tamu.edu

Meats Judging Coach, Nora Whitson at norawhitson@yahoo.com

Livestock Project Visits

Need help with livestock selection, feeding, daily care, fitting, or showmanship? Whitney Ingram is available to help you prepare for the Bell County Youth Fair and the Major Stock Shows. Call the Bell County Extension Office at (254) 933-5305 or email whitney.grantham@ag.tamu.edu to schedule a project visit at your barn.

Bell County Youth Fair

February 6-13, 2021

Important Announcements!

More information can be found on the BCYF Website: <https://agrilife.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/> !

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://agrilife.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 31st 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

BCYF Broilers	January 8, 2021	3:30-5:30 pm
Rabbits Validation	January 10, 2021	3 pm -5 pm
Weigh Out Comm. Steers	January 30, 2021	8:00 am
Commercial Steer Recordbooks Due	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

January 2021

February 2021

January 4: BCYF Container Pick Up—Club Managers
January 4: BCYF Photography Upload Starts
January 5: MAB Finance Meeting, Online
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, Online
January 15: Virtual CDM Practice
January 15: BCYF Photography Upload ENDS
January 16: Clover Kids Meeting
January 19: MAB Meeting
January 22: Virtual CDM Practice
January 25: BCYF Ride Night—SPEED
January 26: BCYF Ride Night—PERFORMANCE
January 29: Virtual CDM Practice
January 29: Houston & Austin Broiler Pick Up
January 30: BCYF Commercial Steer Weigh Out

February 1: State Fair Scholarship Deadline
February 1: BCYF Ride Night—SPEED
February 2: BCYF Ride Night—PERFORMANCE
February 4: BCYF Ride Night—SPEED
February 5: BCYF Ride Night—PERFORMANCE
February 5: BCYF Ride Night—Boxing Practice
February 5: BCYF Commercial Steer Recordbook Due
February 12: TEEA Scholarship Due
February 15: Texas 4-H Scholarship Deadline
February 20: Clover Kids Meeting
February 22: HLSR Exhibitor & Go Texan Scholarship
February 26: BC Photography Entry Deadline

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

BELL COUNTY
4-H NEWSLETTER

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Shel Long



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

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