

# June 2023 Focus

## Bell County Staff

### **Sheryl Austin**

Cooperative Extension  
Family & Community  
Health

### **VACANT**

4-H Program Assistant

### **Sherry Spence-Purcella**

BLT Extension Agent

### **Beverly Hodges**

County Extension Agent  
Family & Community  
Health

### **Floyd Ingram**

County Extension Agent  
Agriculture

### **Whitney Ingram**

County Extension Agent  
Natural Resources

### **Sheryl Long**

County Extension Agent  
4-H & Youth Development

## **Congratulations Newly Elected 2023-2024**

### **Bell County Council Officers!**

President— Kaylee Eaton

1st Vice— James Steglich

2nd Vice— Emma Canales

Secretary—Victoria Canales

Treasurer—Jordan Candelas

Parliamentarian— Keeley Ham

Public Relations— Colton Payne

Reporter—Ava Canales

Recreation Leaders— Caroline Wood &  
Avery Payne

## **Congratulations to the Texas 4-H Foundation Scholarship**

### **Recipients!**

Ian Ranly

Catelyn Tyler

**Good luck to all of our  
members competing at  
Texas 4-H Round Up  
in June!**

## **Congratulations to the Bell County 4-H Scholarship Recipients!**

Matthew Hampton

Catelyn Tyler



1605 N. Main, Room 102  
Belton, TX 76513  
Phone: (254) 933-5305  
Fax: (254) 933-5312  
Website: <http://agrilife.org/bell4h/>



# County Council & Ambassadors



## 2023-2024 Bell County 4-H Ambassadors Applications

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 June 2, 2023.** 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, June 2, 2023**, of the current 4-H year to be considered for renewal. (Recordbook is also a requirement and is due **June 2, 2023**)

Please turn in point sheets with renewal application!

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

## County Council Officer Training

The Mandatory County Council Officer Training will take place sometime this summer! This will be at the Bell CEO from 9:00 am—11:00 pm. Bring your calendar and community service ideas. There is not a good date that works for everyone so check your email and complete the doodle poll!

## Bell County Ambassador Training

The Mandatory Bell County 4-H Ambassador Training will take place sometime this summer. There is not a good date that works for everyone so check your email and complete the google doc!

# Bell County 4-H Exchange

Attention 4-H Parents/Volunteers: We are desperately looking for adult volunteer for Bell County 4-H Exchange Club! Do you like to travel and learn about agriculture, history, different cultures, and meet 4-H families throughout the United States? Did you know Bell County 4-H Exchange has been part county since the 90's? No money out of pocket for volunteers and 4-H Members! All fundraisers are already organized/ approved and plus volunteers pick the meeting location and meeting dates (example: every other month)! This project club is 4-H members entering 7th-11th grade. Please email [ckide3@yahoo.com](mailto:ckide3@yahoo.com), PM, or text 264-493-2548 for more information on how you can volunteer! Please check out our past exchanges on the Bell County 4-H Exchange Facebook page: Pennsylvania, Washington, Minnesota, and touring Texas!

# 4-H Club Managers & Volunteers

## 4-H Club Chartering

**Deadline:** June 18, 2023

Club Managers will be submitting their club information either on 4-H Online or to Sheryl. You should have received an e-mail from Sheryl with the Charter Packet attached. Please don't hesitate to ask questions if you need help.

## Membership Advisory Board Meeting

**When:** August 24, 2023

**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.

## Hunter's Spectacular Planning Meeting

We will have our next Hunter's Spectacular planning meeting on **Thursday, June 1st** starting at 6:00 pm at the Bell County CEO. Please come help us get the ball rolling on this event!

For more information, contact Sheryl Long at [Sheryl.long@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Sheryl.long@ag.tamu.edu)

# Upcoming Events

## Bell County 4-H Awards Banquet

**When:** August 12, 2023

**Where:** Bell County Expo Center, Special Events Room

**Theme:** Vegas

**Time:** 10:00 am

The annual 4-H Banquet is set for **Saturday, August 12, 2023** at the Bell County Expo Special Events Room. We will need pictures for the General 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).



**Please RSVP to [Janice.Runyon@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Janice.Runyon@ag.tamu.edu) NO LATER THAN July 31st!**



# Upcoming Events



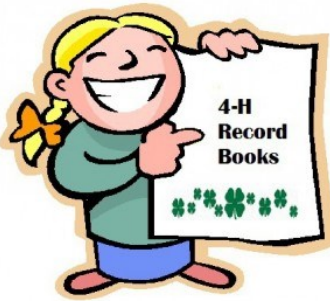
## Bell County Record Books

**Due:** June 2, 2023 to the CEO

**Where:** CEO by 5pm

If you would like Sheryl to review your recordbook BEFORE the June 2nd FINAL submission date, then please give her your recordbook ASAP. We will trade record books with Williamson county on **June 14th** for those who want to help us judge. We will be judging Williamson County books in Bell County while they judge our books in Williamson County.

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



## Clover Kids

Bell County 4-H Clover Kids Summer Camp  
Saturday, June 17, 2023 from 1:00pm - 4:00pm  
Bell County Extension Office  
Open to youth 2nd grade - younger.

### RSVP Information:

Deadline: Tuesday, June 13, 2023

Email: Dawn Brown at [bc4hcloverkids@yahoo.com](mailto:bc4hcloverkids@yahoo.com)

Information needed: (#) number of youth attending camp

Check out the Clover Kid page for more information on upcoming events!

<https://agriflife.org/bell4h/4-h-activities/clover-kids/>

## Texas Stream Team Training Available to Bell County 4-H Participants

Bell County 4-H Stream Team Training will be held Saturday, July 29, from 1-4 PM at Nolan Creek in downtown Belton. Please contact Jane or John Gauntt ([jg4belton@yahoo.com](mailto:jg4belton@yahoo.com)) if interested.

There are 8 spots available. \*Parent must attend training with participants under age 14.\*

Anyone with a desire to become a citizen scientist or learn more about the natural resources in Texas can be involved in Texas Stream Team citizen scientist trainings and programs. Citizen scientists monitor a wide variety of habitats from rivers, creeks, ponds, and lakes to bays, bayous, and estuaries. Citizen scientists range from school age to senior citizens, from individuals to organized groups like Master Naturalists.

Texas Stream Team citizen scientist data assist communities, government agencies, businesses and industries, and educational organizations in promoting informed natural resource management decisions.

## Ag Product Id

Good luck to the Senior Ag Product Id team participating in the State 4-H Round-Up contest on June 6th and to all of the other teams/individuals participating throughout the week. Y'all got this!

It's time to mark your calendar for the fall contests:

State Fair (Dallas): September 29th

Heart of Texas (Waco): October 7th

Practices will resume sometime in August so watch for dates in times in the newsletter.

Please contact Michael Canales at 254-541-6293 or [guajeman1@gmail.com](mailto:guajeman1@gmail.com) for more information.

# National 4-H Congress

## 2023 National 4-H Congress

National 4-H Congress will be held Friday, November 24th through Tuesday, November 28th at the Hyatt Regency in Atlanta, Georgia. National 4-H Congress is the flagship event of the National 4-H program. Each year a National Design Team of Extension educators, 4-H youth, and 4-H adult volunteers analyze current youth issues and determine the most effective ways to address them. The program combines a variety of fun and exciting educational, recreational, and networking opportunities. The program combines sessions, seminars, discussion groups, and a service-learning experience. The nation's most outstanding community leaders, speakers, and educators present the most current and timely information available.

### OBJECTIVES:

- To improve the ability of teen 4-H youth to express themselves in written and verbal forms of communication that are necessary and important "life skills" for today and in the future.
- To increase the awareness of the importance of Leadership, Citizenship, and Community Service in 4-H Youth Development.

### WHO SHOULD APPLY:

- Youth with significant leadership accomplishments and potential.
- Youth who have demonstrated the ability to perform academically at or above grade level; passing all course work and eligible to participate in extra-curricular activities.
- Youth who possess the maturity to interact with other youth from different regions, cultures, experiences, and beliefs.
  - Youth in grades 9-12 at time of event, November 24-28, 2023.
  - Youth must still be in high school during the time of the trip.
- Any youth participating in a youth development program which Texas A&M AgriLife Extension or Prairie View Cooperative Extension Program is a partner; (including 4-H clubs, short-term groups, school curriculum enrichment and ENP-Y programs).

### APPLICATION PROCESS:

Applications will open on **May 24th** and must be submitted online and certified through 4-H Online by **Tuesday, June 13, 2023**. There is not a fee for this application to be completed online.

The online application will contain the following:

- Summary of Major Leadership Roles, Citizenship/Community Service Activities.
- Personal biography of 4-H member's 4-H career and other extracurricular activities.
  - Approval of application by County Extension Agent

### The following items are included in the registration fee:

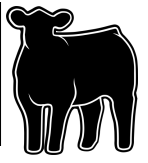
- Congress Registration (includes most meals)
- States Lunch
- Evening refreshments/snacks
- Lodging
- Shirt
- Ground transportation in Atlanta
- Airline Ticket
- State Photograph
- Trading Pins
- Educational Tour

### Not included in the cost:

- Transportation to and from the airport the delegation will be leaving from.
- Spending money for souvenirs and meals during travel to and from Atlanta, GA.
  - Some Breakfasts/Lunches while in Atlanta, GA.



# Livestock Project News



## Bell County 4-H Livestock Page

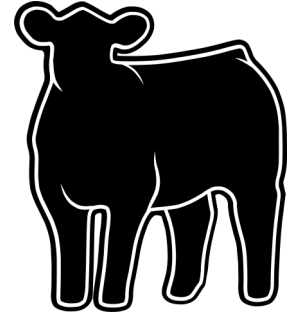
Exhibitors and their families can always find the latest Livestock Project information at:

<https://agrilife.org/bell4h/projects/4-h-livestock/>

### Steer & Heifer Validation

Monday, June 19 from 7:00–10:00 AM & 4:00–6:00 PM at the Bell County EXPO

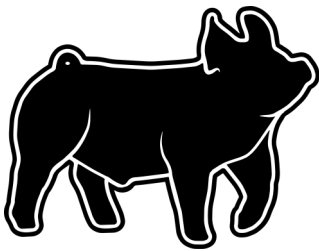
**REGISTERED HEIFERS:** The deadline for ownership, transfer, and registration for Registered Breeding Heifers is June 30, 2023. **A color, PDF copy of the original registration papers should be emailed to your County Extension Agent or Ag Teacher by June 30, 2023.**



**\*\*NEW\*\* FOR 2023** All state validated heifers will be tagged similar to steers. This will bring our heifer validation program in line with breeding sheep, breeding goats, and breeding gilts.  
1. Heifers already validated do NOT have to be revalidated or have a tag. Heifers ONLY need to be revalidated if they change breed or ownership.

2. If your heifer has a previously existing 840 premise ID tag, there will be retag form/process, in coordination with TAHC, to remove the tag and replace with an official Texas Validation 840 tag. More information will be forthcoming on the official process and form for doing so.

### State Fair of Texas & Heart O' Texas Fair Swine Validation By appointment at the exhibitor or school barn



All Registered and Commercial Gilts must be validated for the State Fair of Texas and Heart O' Texas Fair.

**REGISTERED GILTS:** The date of ownership, transfer, and registration must all be on or before June 30, 2023. **A color, PDF copy of the original registration papers should be emailed to your County Extension Agent or Ag Teacher by June 30, 2023.**

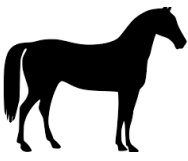
### State Fair of Texas Sheep & Goat Validation

Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 AM–5:00 PM at the Extension Office

**BREEDING SHEEP & GOATS:** All Registered and Commercial Breeding Sheep and Goats must be validated to be eligible to show at the State Fair of Texas. Once validated, Breeding Sheep and Goat projects will be eligible for 3 years unless a change in ownership occurs. The deadline for ownership, transfer, and registration is June 30, 2023. **A color, PDF copy of the original registration papers should be emailed to [Whitney.Ingram@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Whitney.Ingram@ag.tamu.edu) by June 30, 2023.**



**\*\*NEW\*\* FOR 2023** Lambs and goats validated during the 2023 State Fair Validation Period will be eligible for 2024 Spring Major Shows. Market animals validated for the 2023 State Fair will carryover for 2024 Spring Major Shows. Once validated, the project must stay in the care of the exhibitor that project is validated to; if the exhibitor chooses to sell the project to a new exhibitor, the new exhibitor must revalidate the project within the next validation period. Please see the Validation Guidelines for more details.



# Livestock Project News



## 4-H Horse Club Events

6/6 - 6pm: Drill Team practice - TLRC

6/10 - Drill Team raffle ticket sales at TLRC playday??

6/12-13 - District Horse Show - Expo

6/15 - State Horse Show registration Opens

6/17 - Drill team raffle ticket sales at TSC??

6/20 - 6pm: Drill Team practice - 3C

6/27 - 6pm: Drill Team practice - TLRC

6/30 - Drill Team practice (Rodeo)- Belton??

6/30 - State Horse Show registration closes

## District 8 4-H Horse Show

**Date:** June 12-13, 2023

**Location:** Bell County Expo

**Entry Deadline:** May 19, 2023 on 4-H Online

Stalls are available at an estimated \$20.00 per night on a first-come first-serve basis. **Stall fees will be paid to the Expo Center staff at time of arrival. Stalls will not be available on Sunday. Stalls will be available starting at 6:00 a.m. through 10:00 p.m. on Monday, June 12, 2023.**

Contact Sheryl or Whitney if you have any questions.

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

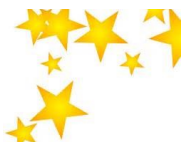
## Bell-Milam Youth Agribusiness Tour

Save the date Wednesday, July 26th for the 2023 Bell-Milam Youth Agribusiness Tour! This will be the 6th year of our annual tour sponsored by Capital Farm Credit! Each of the stops will feature a facet of agricultural production and business. Youth will have the opportunity to connect with local producers and see the impact of agriculture in our communities. The 2023 tour will include row crops, beef production, livestock equipment, and more! Transportation and meals will be provided for all participants at no cost by our tour sponsors.

To sign up for the tour, participants must be a member of Bell or Milam County 4-H and in 6th - 12th grade.

The first ten applicants from each county will be accepted. Youth must have an interest in agriculture.

**If you would like more information about this tour,  
please email [Whitney.Ingram@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Whitney.Ingram@ag.tamu.edu) to be added to the mailing list!**



# 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 June 2, 2023!** 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?

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 **June 2, 2023**. Record books for county competition will be due on **June 2, 2023**.

**Awards age based on 4-H Grade as of August 31, 2022**

Graduating seniors for the 2023 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 16th

**Where:** CEO or Virtual

We will schedule interview times for those members that applied to receive an award. Interviews will take place before 5:00 pm.





# Summer Fun Activities



## District 8 Leadership Lab (Surge)

For those members that have registered for this camp, we will be traveling to camp in a rental van!

### Tentative Travel Schedule:

June 21—Meet at the CEO between 10:30-11:00 am

Eat lunch in Burnet, arrive at camp by 2:00 pm (ish)

June 23—Depart from camp around 11:30 am. Return to CEO no later than 2:00 pm.

I expect all participants to be on their best behavior and represent Bell County 4-H well. You WILL respect all adults and follow all dress code requirements.

What to Bring: Pillow, light blanket, towels, wash cloths, personal items

(Most campers will be in the Chateau and linens are provided)

- Swimsuit (for any lake and pool activities at camp \*\*must be appropriate and cover all body parts)
  - Water shoes or old tennis shoes for the lake (must have a strap/back)
  - Comfortable, casual clothes for workshops, dances
- No flip flops or other backless sandals are allowed during the dance. They must be close-toed shoes.
  - Sturdy shoes for active games
- A light jacket or sweater is also recommended, as the classrooms may be cool.
  - Sunscreen
  - Bug Spray

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

County Camp I	June 25-29	\$300/Y, \$160/A
Horizons Camp I	July 2-6	\$300/Y, \$160/A
Horizons Camp II	June 26-29	\$300/Y, \$160/A
County Camp II	July 9-13	\$300/Y, \$160/A
Prime Time I	July 16-19	\$250/Y, \$135/A
High Adventure Camp	June 18-20	\$200/Y, \$115/A
Prime Time II	July 19-22	\$250/Y, \$135/A

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

- 3rd Grade and up
- All camp enrollment based on grade in 2022-2023 school year
- 4-H membership is NOT required
- Pay deposit by June 14th or pay full amount
- Late fee \$50
- All adult volunteers must enroll as a 4-H volunteer, have verified background check, and complete child protection training in 4-H Connect prior to camp.
- **The Bell County 4-H program WILL NOT be providing chaperones for any of the camps listed above. If your child wants to attend camp, either the parent or another approved 4-H volunteer must attend with the child.**



# Summer Fun Activities



## ~Summer Workshop Guidelines~

- Please make sure the participants arrive on time
- Participants must be picked up promptly at the conclusion of the workshop
- Please adhere to RSVP deadlines

# Summer Sewing Series

## Quilting Workshop

**When:** June 26 & 27

**Where:** Bell CEO

**Time:** 9:00 am—12:00 pm

Learn all the basics of quilting. Quilt by machine and hand tie. Limited to 10 participants. We must know the age of participant and the skill level. Email your RSVP by June 19th to [Janice.Runyon@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Janice.Runyon@ag.tamu.edu).

## Half Aprons

**When:** June 30

**Where:** Bell CEO

**Time:** 1:00—5:00 pm

Limited to 12 participants. 8-10 year olds welcome if a parent is present. Bring 2 yards (45" wide) of cotton fabric to make a craft. \$5 supply fee collected at the door. Email your RSVP by June 24th to [Janice.Runyon@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Janice.Runyon@ag.tamu.edu).

## Shorts 4 Boys & Skirts 4 Girls

**When:** July 14

**Where:** Bell CEO

**Time:** 1:00 —5:00 pm

Limited to 12 participants. 8-10 year olds welcome if a parent is present. Bring 2 yards (45" wide) of cotton fabric to make a craft. \$5 supply fee collected at the door. Email your RSVP by July 7th to [Janice.Runyon@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Janice.Runyon@ag.tamu.edu).

## Summer Clothing Blast

**When:** July 7

**Where:** Bell CEO Meeting Room

**Time:** TBD

Save the date! More information to come soon!



# Summer Fun Activities



## Cake & Cookie Workshops

### Cake Tips

**When:** June 22

**Where:** Bell CEO

**Time:** 5:30—7:30 pm

Now you can have your cake and eat it, too! Learn to decorate cakes professionally from our local expert, Sue Butler. And you can take your cake home with you!

Email your RSVP by June 19th to [Janice.Runyon@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Janice.Runyon@ag.tamu.edu).

### Clover Kids Cake Decorating

**When:** June 24

**Where:** Bell CEO

**Time:** TBD

More information to come!

### Cupcake Decorating

**When:** July 13

**Where:** Bell CEO

**Time:** 5:30—7:30 pm

Now you can have your cake and eat it, too! Learn to decorate cakes professionally from our local expert, Sue Butler. And you can take 6 or more cupcakes home with you!

Email your RSVP by July 10th to [Janice.Runyon@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Janice.Runyon@ag.tamu.edu).

### Cookie Decorating

**When:** July 20

**Where:** Bell CEO

**Time:** 5:30—7:30 pm

Come learn how to decorate cookies professionally! And you will get some to take home and share!

Email your RSVP by July 24th to [Janice.Runyon@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Janice.Runyon@ag.tamu.edu).

### Specialty Decorating

**When:** August 3

**Where:** Bell CEO

**Time:** 5:30—7:30 pm

Email your RSVP by July 31st to [Janice.Runyon@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Janice.Runyon@ag.tamu.edu).

# Important Dates

June 2023

**June 1:** Hunter's Spectacular Planning Meeting  
**June 1:** BCYF & Major Show Turkey Order Deadline  
**June 2:** BC 4-H Recordbooks Due  
**June 2:** Adult Leader Awards Due  
**June 2:** BC 4-H Award Applications Due  
**June 3:** BC 4-H Ambassador Applications Due  
**June 6-8:** Texas 4-H Round Up, College Station  
**June 12-13:** D8 Horse Show, Belton  
**June 13:** National 4-H Congress Deadline  
**June 14:** County Recordbook Judging  
**June 15:** State Fair Lamb and Goat Validation  
**June 16:** 4-H Award Interviews  
**June 17:** Clover Kids Summer Camp  
**June 18:** 4-H Club Charter Deadline  
**June 19:** BCYF & Major Show Steer/Heifer Validation  
**June 21-23:** D8 Leadership Lab (Surge), Burnet  
**June 22:** Cake Tips Workshop  
**June 24:** Clover Kid Cake Decoration Workshop  
**June 26:** Quilting Workshop  
**June 27:** Quilting Workshop  
**June 30:** Half Aprons Workshop

July 2023

**July 4:** CEO Closed, County Holiday  
**July 7:** Summer Clothing Blast  
**July 13:** Cupcake Decorating Workshop  
**July 14:** Shorts & Skirts Sewing Workshop  
**July 26:** Bell-Milam Youth Agribusiness Tour  
**July 27:** Cookie Decorating Workshop  
**July 29:** TX Stream Team Training  
**July 31:** 4-H Banquet RSVP Deadline

August 2023

**August 3:** Specialty Decorating Workshop  
**August 24:** MAB Meeting  
**August 12:** Bell County 4-H Awards Banquet

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/>