

# August 2023 Focus

## Bell County Staff

### **Sheryl Austin**

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### **Beverly Hodges**

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### **Floyd Ingram**

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### **Sheryl Long**

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### **Laila Romero**

4-H Program Assistant

### **Sherry Spence-Purcella**

BLT Extension Agent

## Hunter's Spectacular

SAVE THE DATE!

The Bell County 4-H fundraiser  
will take place **Saturday, October  
28, 2023!** More information  
inside the newsletter!



## Bell County 4-H Awards Banquet

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

The new 4-H Year starts on  
on August 15th! This means you  
can start re-enrolling your  
family on 4-H Connect.

More details inside  
this newsletter on enrollment.



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Phone: (254) 933-5305  
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Website: <http://agrilife.org/bell4h/>

# 4-H Enrollment

4-H Enrollment starts **August 15th**! All enrollments are done via 4HOnline. You can access 4HOnline by going to our 4-H website at <http://agrillife.org/bell4h/> and clicking on the 4HOnline icon. [V2.4honline.com](http://V2.4honline.com).

**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://agrillife.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, 2023 and in the 3rd grade)

Maximum age - 18 (as of August 31, 2023)

## 4-H Member Categories

Juniors: Grades 3, 4, and 5

Intermediates: Grades 6, 7, and 8

Seniors: Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12

# *Hunter Spectacular*

## **Event Details**

Drawing for 20 Guns and other large ticket items

\*Winners will be drawn on Facebook Live on **Saturday, October 28th starting at 11:00 am**

-Once a ticket is drawn, it will not be put back into the drawing.

\*4-H members are expected to sell at least **5** tickets per member.

-\$20 tickets

\*Ticket turn-in will be by Club appointment only on:

Tuesday, October 24th through Friday, October 27

8:00am – 11:00am or 1:00pm -4:00pm

**Clubs MUST pay with their 4-H Club check**

## **Handgun Bonus Draw**

These tickets will be \$50 per ticket and this drawing is limited to 100 tickets. The Bonus Draw will be sold only by Bell County 4-H Ambassadors.

\*Each club is expected to donate \$100 to purchase the handgun for the Bonus Draw.

\*Deadline for \$100 donation – September 29, 2023

\*Bell County 4-H Ambassadors are expected to sell at least **5** tickets to the Bonus Draw before selling tickets for the main Hunter Spectacular drawing.

Each club needs to recruit at least one \$200 sponsor for this event. Feel free to get more!

## **4-H Club Incentives**

We want to continue to incentivize member participation. In that effort, each Club that meets the 3 requirements listed below will earn a 10% kickback.

1. 100% ticket sales based on enrollment from last year based on each member selling 3 tickets.
2. Donate \$100 to the Bonus Draw side raffle.
3. Recruit at least one \$200 event sponsor

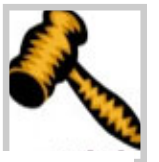
For example: if your club is given 100 tickets to sell based on last year's membership, you will receive the 10% kickback if you sell those 100 tickets, recruit at least one \$200 event sponsor, and donate \$100 to the Bonus Draw side raffle.

## **4-H Member Incentives**

The 4-H member with the highest number of ticket sales, will get \$100 cash! This does not include tickets sales from the Bonus Draw (Ambassadors only). Make sure to complete the "sold by" portion on your tickets to get credit! Club Managers will have to keep track of this and share with the Extension Office on their club's highest seller and the number of tickets they sold.



# County Council & Ambassadors



### County Council Meeting Dates

Dates and programs have been set for the 2023-2024 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
September 14	Club Officer Training	VA Blankets
November 13	Bell County Youth Fair	Stuffed Animal Drive
January 18	Honey Bees	Animal Shelter Donations
March 26	Fire Department	Community Garden Donation
May 9	Council Officer Elections	Non-Perishable Food Drive

### Blanket Collection Drive for the VA Hospital

Bring any **NEW** and unused blanket to the next County Council Meeting. These blankets will stay local and will be donated to the local VA Hospital in Temple for their patients to utilize.

### Bell County 4-H Ambassadors for Hunter's Spectacular

The Bell County 4-H Ambassadors will be selling the Bonus Draw tickets for a very nice handgun. These tickets will be \$50 per ticket and this drawing is limited to 100 tickets. **The Bonus Draw will be sold only by Bell County 4-H Ambassadors.** Bell County 4-H Ambassadors are expected to sell at least **5** tickets to the Bonus Draw before selling tickets for the main Hunter Spectacular drawing. You will pick up these tickets from the Bell County Extension Office AND turn in your ticket stubs with payment back into the Extension Office.

# 4-H Club Managers & Volunteers

### 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.

# 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. Yes, this banquet takes place in the morning! We are just trying something different this year. We will still serve food and drinks, breakfast style! Come hungry for muffins, waffles, sausage, bacon, fruit and cheese!



## 4-H Open House

SAVE THE DATE! The Bell County 4-H Open House is set for **Tuesday, September 13th** at the Cadence Bank Event Center (formerly Bell County Expo Center), Assembly Hall from 5:00-7:00 pm. Want to have a 4-H Club or Project booth? Sign up for a booth here! <https://forms.gle/2LpaqpP85i57uyxWA>

If you are wanting to serve on the planning committee, please join us via Teams on Thursday, August 17 starting at 6:00 pm. Link below.

[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_YTU5Y2M5NzAtZjYzYS00YjdmLTg1NTMtMDkwY2E1MzI1ZWWE0%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%229fd7580a-6472-4d9c-a142-d131d3a7a116%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22f61deb7-c76c-4993-ab90-1052d9609282%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YTU5Y2M5NzAtZjYzYS00YjdmLTg1NTMtMDkwY2E1MzI1ZWWE0%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%229fd7580a-6472-4d9c-a142-d131d3a7a116%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22f61deb7-c76c-4993-ab90-1052d9609282%22%7d)

# Summer Fun Activities

# Cake & Cookie Workshops

## 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).



# 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/>

### 2023 State Fair of Texas & Heart O' Texas Fair Entry Deadline

If you are attending the **State Fair of Texas & Heart O' Texas Fair**, please see the entry information below. Entry forms and payment are due to the CEO by **August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023**. No late entries will be accepted.

Youth livestock entries must include a current Quality Counts number. For exhibitors entering 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, or 9<sup>th</sup> grade this year, you must take the course. The Quality Counts system is down for maintenance now, but is expected to reopen on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. To begin a new course enrollment, visit <https://www.texaslivestockvalidation.com/qc/qcregister.aspx>.

Exact cash or checks can be made payable to the Bell Livestock Coalition. Credit Card payments will incur a 3% fee. Entry forms will not be accepted without payment.

**State Fair of Texas Entry Process:** Fill out paper entry form, enter information into online parent portal, and bring form to the Extension Office with payment by **August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023**. The schedule, premium book, and additional entry forms can be found at <https://bigtex.com/get-involved/livestock-shows/livestockexhibitors/>.

Visit <https://livestock.bigtex.com/login/> (after August 1<sup>st</sup>) to login or create your SFT Parent Portal account. Upon completion of submitting your entries they are directed to your ag teacher or county agent's queue. All exhibitors must electronically complete and sign: 1. Release of liability and indemnity agreement AND 2. W9 that includes a social security number.

- **Heart O' Texas Entry Process:** Fill out paper form and bring form to the Extension Office with payment by **August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023**. The schedule, premium book, and additional entry forms can be found at <https://www.hotfair.com/p/livestock-show--contests>.

### Save the Date for Local Show Opportunities!

#### Central Texas State Fair: September 2, 2023

On Saturday, we will host our lamb, goat, steer, and heifer jackpot shows.

A flyer with more information is coming soon!

#### Holiday Classic Clinic and Jackpot Show: November 4th - 5th, 2023

This will be the 32nd annual Holiday Classic! Remember, this show is completely FREE for exhibitors and their families. There will be high quality educational clinics, great food, and awesome giveaways as always! If you or your business would like to be a sponsor of this event to help keep it FREE for attendees, please let us know!

### Texas 4-H Rabbit Extravaganza

Save the date! The Texas 4-H Rabbit Extravaganza will be held at the Bell County Expo on Saturday, September 16, 2023. Events include: rabbit show, skill contest, arts and crafts, best dressed bunny and a skill building workshop.



# Livestock Project News



## 2024 Major Show Lamb and Goat Validation Tag Orders

It is time to place state validation tag orders for lambs and goats going to **2024 Spring Major Shows!** Bell County **REQUIRES** all FFA and 4-H members to pre-order and pay for Major Show tags prior to validation. Major Show tags are **\$20/each**. Livestock validated for Texas Major Shows are automatically validated for the Bell County Youth Fair at no additional cost during validation. Validation tags for only the county show will be purchased on-site during physical validation for \$5/each. Completing validation does NOT enter livestock in the shows. Major Show entries will be handled through your County Extension Agent or Ag Teacher. Bell County Youth Fair entries will be completed online. For more information, please contact your County Extension Agent or Ag Teacher.

### 2024 MAJOR SHOW VALIDATION TAG ORDER DEADLINE Due Friday, August 25th

**Market Lambs**  
**Market Goats**  
**Breeding Sheep\***  
**Wether/Commercial Dams**  
**Breeding Goats\***  
**Wether/Commercial Does**

#### **\*Registration Papers Required\*** **For Registered Sheep & Goats**

The deadline for ownership, transfer, and registration is October 1, 2023. A color copy of the original registration papers **MUST** be sent to [Whitney.Ingram@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Whitney.Ingram@ag.tamu.edu) prior to validation.

There are two options for exhibitors to submit tag orders:

- To **order online** and pay by credit card, visit: <https://bell-livestock-coalition.square.site/>
- To **order in person or by mail** and pay with exact cash or check, please complete the attached order form and mail or deliver to the Extension Office with payment, payable to *Bell Livestock Coalition*.

Physical validation will be held at the **Bell County EXPO** on the dates listed below:

**Sheep and Goat Validation: October 17th and October 24th from 4:00 – 7:00 pm**

Special Notes for Sheep and Goat Validations:

- **\*NEW FOR 2023\*** All lambs and goats validated during the 2023 State Fair Validation period including market animals **WILL BE ELIGIBLE** 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.
- Texas Lamb Breeders Association (TLBA) and Texas Goat Breeders Association (TGBA) tag numbers **MUST** be in the animal's ear to be recorded on the validation form at validation. All lambs and goats planning to go to San Angelo **MUST** have TLBA/TGBA tags in their ear and the number recorded on their validation form.
- If a TLBA/TGBA tag is added to the animal's ear after the State Fair show season, then the animal must be re-validated during the Major Show Validation season in order for the TLBA/TGBA tag number to be properly recorded on the Validation Form and eligible for TLBA/TGBA premiums during the spring show season.
- In 2021, Sheep and Goat Validation of Texas announced the introduction of the Roll-over Breeding Sheep and Breeding Goat program. For example, any **BREEDING** animal validated during the State Fair 2021 validation period is eligible to be exhibited by that exhibitor through the State Fair 2024 show season. If ownership changes, then the animal must be re-validated.
- All sheep and goats are eligible for family validation. Registered sheep and goats can family validate if the registration papers have all exhibitors full names listed as owners. Registration paper ownership will determine the exhibitors eligible to show that project.
- All Market Lambs, Market Goats, Breeding Sheep, Wether Dams, Breeding Goats, and Wether Does will use the same RFID validation tag.

If you have any questions, please contact Whitney Ingram at [whitney.ingram@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:whitney.ingram@ag.tamu.edu) or (254) 933-5305.

# Important Dates

August 2023

**August 3:** Specialty Decorating Workshop  
**August 12:** Bell County 4-H Awards Banquet  
**August 15:** Enrollment Begins for Returning Members  
**August 16:** State Fair & HOT Fair Entry Deadline  
**August 17:** 4-H Open House Meeting  
**August 24:** MAB Meeting  
**August 25:** Major Show Lamb and Goat Validation Tag Order Deadline

September 2023

**September 2:** Central Texas State Fair  
**September 13:** 4-H Open House  
**September 14:** County Council Meeting  
**September 16:** Texas 4-H Rabbit Extravaganza  
**September 29:** HS Bonus Draw Donation Deadline for Clubs

October 2023

**October 17:** Major Show Lamb and Goat Validation  
**October 24:** Major Show Lamb and Goat Validation  
**October 24-27:** HS Ticket Turn-In for Club Managers ONLY  
**October 28:** Hunter's Spectacular



TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION

BELL COUNTY  
4-H NEWSLETTER

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*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/>