

# December 2023 Focus

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**Bell County 4-H wishes you  
a Merry Christmas!**



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# 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
January 18	Honey Bees	Animal Shelter Donations
March 26	Fire Department	Community Garden Donation
May 9	Council Officer Elections	Non-Perishable Food Drive

## Animal Shelter Donations

The Bell County Animal Shelter helps promote general animal welfare through the management of stray animals. Each year the shelter takes in and cares for hundreds of animals. The shelter depends on generous community donations of food and supplies to function. Items needed by the shelter are being collected through the month of January by the Bell County 4-H Council and can be dropped off at the CEO.

The shelter also maintains an Amazon wish list that allows you to order directly from Amazon and ship directly to the shelter. This wish list is available at [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/23F3L3B9XFC3F?ref=wl\\_share&fbclid=IwAR0GXNVUEPPmsonH3evKR55vEl6du3IfCeRNq8Xefui4oTZi623SQeuZnY](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/23F3L3B9XFC3F?ref=wl_share&fbclid=IwAR0GXNVUEPPmsonH3evKR55vEl6du3IfCeRNq8Xefui4oTZi623SQeuZnY)

### Items needed include:

Clorox bleach	Paper Towels	Exam Gloves	Dawn Dish Detergent	Dog Leashes
Purina Dry Cat Chow	Purina Dry Puppy Chow	Purina Dry Kitten Chow	Purina Dry	Purina Dry
Dog Chow	Tidy Cats Litter	Old Towels	Old Blankets	Large Dog
Collars	Cat Toys	Dog Treats	Gain Liquid Laundry Soap	

## County Council Meeting

**Date:** January 18, 2024

**Location:** Extension Office      **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 representatives 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 over honey bees.

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

## Council/Ambassador Christmas Party

The County Council Officer and Ambassador Christmas party is scheduled for **Thursday, December 21st** at the CEO. If you would like to participate in the gift exchange, Please bring a \$10.00 and under unisex gift. NO CHINESE CHRISTMAS GAG GIFTS. Time is from 1:00 – 3:00 pm.

# 4-H Club Managers & Volunteers

## Membership Advisory Board Meeting

**When:** January 24, 2024

**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.

## BCYF Container Pick Up

Attention Club Managers! You can start picking up your food containers starting on **January 3rd** at the CEO for your club members that will be competing in the 2023 BCYF Food Division. Our business hours are Monday-Friday 9:00 am –12:00 & 1:00—5:00 pm. This is for Club Managers ONLY!

## Upcoming Events

### Clover Kids

**2023**

January 20

February 5-7 Bell County Youth Fair: Peewee Showmanship

February 17 Clover Kids Fair

March 16

April 20

May 18

June 15 Summer Camp

July 12 Clover Kids Recordbook Deadline

TBD Clover Kids Cupcake Decorating Workshop

Check out the Clover Kids website for more information on upcoming events:

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

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

### Clover Kids Fair

The Clover Kids Fair is an event for “budding” 4-H members in Kindergarten through 2nd grade. This fair is designed for Clover Kids to show what they can do and is a great opportunity for them to experience how to prepare for future fairs. **Saturday, February 17, 2024.** Time and Location - TBA.

**Entry form deadline is Friday, December 1, 2023**

- All Clover Kids must be enrolled in Bell County 4-H on 4-H Connect to participate.
  - This is not a competitive event.
- Each Clover Kids will receive a participation ribbon.
  - There is no entry fee.

More information and entry form is on the Bell County 4-H Clover Kids website.

[agrilife.org/bell4h/4-h-activities/clover-kids/](https://agrilife.org/bell4h/4-h-activities/clover-kids/)

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

# Upcoming Events

## Ag Product ID

Ag Product ID practices will resume in January. Please check out next month's newsletter for practice dates.

## Upcoming contests::

Bell County Youth Fair: February 9, 2024

Rodeo Austin: March 10, 2021

Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo: March 13, 2024

Leon County: April 12, 2024

Registration for the Austin and Houston contests has closed. If you are interested in the Bell County and Leon County contests, please contact Michael Canales at 254-541-6293 or [guajeman1@gmail.com](mailto:guajeman1@gmail.com).

## 4-H Scholarship Chat

**When:** December 5<sup>th</sup>

**Where:** Online via Microsoft Teams

**Cost:** FREE

Let's chat about scholarships! Where to find different ones, how to apply for the Texas 4-H Foundation Scholarship, and how to use the Texas 4-H scholarship for other scholarships! Be sure to RSVP by December 1st!

Link to RSVP: <https://forms.gle/aDtfCP8KeKTFHCQNA>

## Texas 4-H Congress

We are excited to be making some changes to Texas 4-H Congress! Texas 4-H Congress will be held in Austin, TX on July 14-17, 2024.

At Texas 4-H Congress we have a Youth Leadership Team who serves in the various Legislative Roles at Congress, including but not limited to: Governor, Speaker of the House, Lieutenant Governor, and Floor Leaders. This year, the opportunity to serve in one of these leadership roles is being opened to Texas 4-H members who have or are currently serving on one (or more) of the following groups:

\*Texas 4-H Council

\*District Council

\*Equine Ambassadors

\*Livestock Ambassadors

\*Fashion & Interior Design Ambassadors

\*Healthy Texas Youth Ambassadors

\*Poultry Ambassadors

\*Photography Ambassadors

\*Shooting Sports Ambassadors

\*STEM Ambassadors

\*Water Ambassadors

**Applications will open on 4HOnline on November 1, 2023, and will close on December 5, 2023.** There will be no late applications accepted.

## Bell County 4-H Exchange

Bell County 4-H Exchange has one more female spot to fill! If you like to travel, meet new 4-H friends, learn about agriculture and history, fundraising, then Exchange is for you! ( must be in 7th-11th grade)

We will be touring 4 States: Washington DC, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Texas ! itinerary: Tour Gettysburg National Park, Amish Community, Dairy Farm, Flight 93 National Memorial, Local Farms, Agricultural Businesses, Jersey Beach, Hershey Park, State Capitols, plus touring our beautiful state!

Email [bellcounty4hexchange@gmail.com](mailto:bellcounty4hexchange@gmail.com) if you are interested!

# *National 4-H Congress*

Arlington, VA  
April 19-24, 2024

## **WHAT IS NATIONAL 4-H CONFERENCE?**

National 4-H Conference is the Secretary of Agriculture's premier youth development opportunity to engage youth in developing recommendations for the 4-H Youth Development Program. If you want to strengthen your leadership and/or citizenship projects, this is an excellent opportunity.

National 4-H Conference is a working conference in which youth and adults--at the invitation of the Secretary of Agriculture--assist in the development of recommendations to help guide 4-H Youth Development Programs nationally and in their communities. This event brings together youth, volunteer leaders, and state and county Extension staff members from across the United States, the U.S. Territories, and the Canadian Provinces.

As the sponsor for this conference, the National 4-H Headquarters--located within Families, 4-H, and Nutrition at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) --is charged with sharing the recommendations that emerge from the conference with the Secretary of Agriculture, national Extension Program Leaders, and others who determine 4-H programs. Each delegate chooses an important societal topic to discuss in a roundtable situation with other delegates. From the roundtable discussion, the groups prepare a briefing to present to federal stakeholders. This experiential approach ensures that the conference is a meaningful experience for the youth and adult participants. Social activities in the evening, tours of Monuments and Museums and cultural entertainment round out the conference.

## **LOCATION:**

The 2023 National 4-H Conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City – Arlington, VA. It is right by the Ronald Reagan National Airport and approximately 5 miles from the Nation's Capitol, making it the perfect gateway to Washington, D.C.'s leaders, monuments and museums.

## **WHO SHOULD APPLY?**

The National 4-H Conference requires youth who are focused and committed to working during the Conference and in their state. The Texas delegation will consist of 10-20 youth delegates, who will be required to engage in pre- and post-conference work and participate in all scheduled conference activities. The minimum age requirement for a Texas youth delegate is 15 years old (must be by January 1, 2024). The maximum age for a Texas youth delegate is 18.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS:**

Applications will open on December 1, 2023. Applications must be submitted online and certified through 4HOnline by December 15, 2023. Choose '2024 National 4-H Conference Delegate Application'. A fee is NOT required to complete the application. County Extension Office personnel will certify the application, so please communicate with your Extension Agent of your intent to apply. Final selection of delegates will be made on the basis of the online application; you may be contacted for a telephone interview. The final selection of delegates will be announced on, or before, January 17, 2024.



# *FCH Project News*



## **Consumer Decision Making**

Consumer Decision Making (CDM) is a judging contest geared around evaluating products for a given consumer. Practices will be held at the County Extension Office:

**December:** 7, 14, 21, 28 (all at 6:00 p.m.)

**January:** 4, 11, 25 (all at 7:00 p.m.)

**February:** 1, 22, 29 (all at 7:00 p.m.)

**March:** 7, 14, 28 (7th at 7:00 p.m., all the rest at 6:00 p.m.)

**April:** 4, 11 (all at 6:00 p.m.)

If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Wood at [woodbtwice@gmail.com](mailto:woodbtwice@gmail.com).

## **Sewing Saturday**

Complete a BCYF sewing craft!

**December 2**—Tied Fleece Throw or Pillow

**December 16**—Sewn Accessories

**January 6**—Doll Clothes

9:00 am—5:00 pm, lunch will be provided. All interested 4Hers email or call the Bell CEO ASAP with dates that you want to participate. Limited space available. \$5 per person.

## **FCH Coalition Meeting**

**When:** Monday, January 8, 2024

**Where:** Bell CEO

**Time:** 6:00 pm

We will be planning and prepping for the Bell County 4-H Fashion Show!

## **District 8 Food Show & Food Challenge**

**When:** Wednesday, December 13, 2023

**Where:** Cadence Bank Center, Belton

Good luck to our Bell County 4-H members competing in this Event!

## **Bell County 4-H Fashion Show**

We will hopefully have a set date for this event in the January 2024 4-H Newsletter! The contest will take place in either February or March. Start working on your projects now!



# 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/>

## Texas 4-H Dog Project Validation

Texas 4-H Dog Show will be held on July 11-13, 2024 at the Walker County Fairgrounds in Huntsville, Texas. To be eligible for this show, dogs must be validated by January 10, 2024 in 4-H Online. Video instructions are also available at <https://youtu.be/3NzOljK9Pco> if that is more convenient. 2024 Texas 4-H Dog Show Rule Book will be posted on <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/dog-care-training/> soon.

As 4-H members complete their validation, here are some things to keep in mind:

For purebred dogs (they do not have to be registered, just look purebred) you will select the correct Group and list the breed.

For mixed breed dogs you will select the Weight Group of the dog and list the dominant breed along with the word "Mix" or list the two breeds if known. (Example: Border Collie Mix or Mastiff/Great Dane.)

Photos of the left and right side of the dog should be a side view of the whole dog. Get on the dog's level so they do not turn into top views. They should also be clear and light enough we can see all markings and color of the dog. The dog should only be wearing a collar. No sweaters, costumes, rain gear or anything that covers the dog's color and markings.

Dogs MUST be validated each year. If you validated a dog last year, the information and photos will be in the system, but you must still review and SUBMIT to validate for the 2023-2024 4-H year. Please update the photos if the dog has changed significantly since last year.

We do encourage you to validate any dogs that you are eligible to show. Situations may change through the year.



# Bell County Youth Fair

## February 2-10, 2024

### 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, 2023 to December 31, 2023** 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, 2023** to participate in the BCYF. However, the fee will go up after October 31<sup>st</sup>, so do it quickly.

### Other Important Information

The 2024 Fair Book has been posted. Visit the BCYF website at <https://agrilife.org/bellctyyouthfair/> for more information on entries, rules, judges, and more.

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!

### Important Dates

<b>Online Entry Deadline</b>	December 1, 2023	5:00 PM
<b>Chisholm Trail Christmas Ball</b>	December 2, 2023	
<b>Pick Up Roasters</b>	December 8, 2023	3:30 - 5:30 PM
<b>Commercial Heifer Sale</b>	December 15, 2023	Milam County Auction
<b>Photography Upload</b>	January 1-12, 2024	
<b>Pick Up Broilers</b>	January 5, 2024	3:30 - 5:30 PM
<b>Rabbits Validation</b>	January 7, 2024	3:00 - 5:00 PM
<b>Weigh Out Commercial Steers</b>	January 27, 2024	8:00 AM
<b>Commercial Steer Recordbooks Due</b>	February 2, 2024	5:00 PM

### BCYF Home School Eligibility

The Homeschool Eligibility deadline is **January 12, 2024 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 UNTIL AFTER JANUARY 1, 2024.

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



# Bell County Youth Fair

## February 2-10, 2024

### Bell County Youth Fair – PeeWee Showmanship

#### Rules:

1. PeeWees may only show Lambs, Goats and Swine
2. A parent / legal guardian must be ring side the entire time during PeeWee Showmanship.
3. Only animals previously entered and exhibited in the BCYF will be used for PeeWee Showmanship.
4. Ages - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and below / younger will be allowed to show in PeeWee Showmanship.
5. Only a BCYF exhibitor is to assist PeeWee exhibitors in the ring.

#### Dates:

##### **MONDAY, FEB. 5, 2024**

- o 10:00am Judge Market Swine
- o PeeWee showmanship is at the conclusion of the market swine showmanship.

##### **TUESDAY, FEB. 6, 2024**

- o 1:00pm Judge Breeding Goats /Market Goats.
- o PeeWee goat showmanship will be at the conclusion of the market goat showmanship.

##### **WEDNESDAY, FEB. 7, 2024**

- o 1:00pm Judge Breeding Sheep and Market Lambs.
- o PeeWee lamb showmanship will be at the conclusion of the market lamb showmanship.

For questions, contact the Bell County Youth Fair Coordinator Cheri O'Braden at [cheri.obraden@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:cheri.obraden@ag.tamu.edu)

### BCYF Horse Exhibitor Ride Nights

**Western Events:** January 29, 2024; 6:00-9:00 pm in C-Barn

**English/Halter Classes:** January 30, 2024; 6:00-9:00 pm in C-Barn

**Speed Events:** Thursday, February 1, 2024; 6 :00-9:00 p.m. in ELC

**Performance Classes:** Friday, February 2, 2024; 3:00-6:00 p.m. in ELC

**Stock Horse/Cattle Classes:** Friday, February 2, 2024; 6:00-9:00 p.m. in ELC

Make sure you read and follow the rules for this event! Rules can be found here: <https://agrilife.org/bellctyyouthfair/files/2023/09/2024-BCYF-Ride-Night-Rules.pdf>

### 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 1, 2024. until 5:00 pm on January 12, 2024.

The website to upload pictures is <http://agrilife.org/bellctyyouthfair>

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 2023

January 2024

**December 1:** BCYF Entry Deadline, Online  
**December 1:** Clover Kids Fair Entry Deadline  
**December 2:** Sewing Saturday  
**December 2:** BCYF Chisholm Trail Christmas Ball  
**December 2:** Food Challenge Practice  
**December 5:** 4-H Scholarship Chat, Online  
**December 5:** Texas 4-H Congress Application Deadline  
**December 7:** CDM Practice  
**December 8:** BCYF Roaster Pick Up  
**December 13:** D8 Food Show & Food Challenge Contest  
**December 14:** CDM Practice  
**December 15:** BCYF Commercial Heifer Sale  
**December 15:** National 4-H Congress deadline  
**December 16:** Sewing Saturday  
**December 21:** County Council/Ambassador Christmas Party  
**December 21:** CDM Practice  
**December 28:** CDM Practice

**January 3:** BCYF Container Pick Up– Club Managers ONLY  
**January 4:** CDM Practice  
**January 5:** BCYF Broiler Pick Up  
**January 6:** Sewing Saturday  
**January 7:** BCYF Rabbit Validation  
**January 8:** 4-H FCH Coalition Meeting  
**January 10:** TX 4-H Dog Validation Deadline  
**January 11:** CDM Practice  
**January 12:** BCYF Photography Upload Deadline  
**January 12:** BCYF Home School Eligibility Deadline  
**January 18:** County Council Meeting  
**January 20:** Clover Kid Meeting  
**January 24:** MAB Meeting  
**January 25:** CDM Practice  
**January 27:** BCYF Commercial Steer Weigh Out  
**January 29:** BCYF Ride Night—Western Events  
**January 30:** BCYF Ride Night—English/Halter Classes

**TEXAS A&M**  
**AGRI LIFE**  
**EXTENSION**

**BELL COUNTY**  
**4-H NEWSLETTER**

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

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