

November 2023 Focus

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4-H Enrollment

4-H Enrollment started on **August 15th**! All enrollments are done via 4HOnline. You can access 4HOnline by going to our 4-H website at <http://agrilife.org/bell4h/> and clicking on the 4HOnline icon. 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. The participant fee is **\$25** if enrolled from **August 15th to October 31st**, November 1st the participant fee will increase to **\$30**. **NEW THIS YEAR**, Clover Kids will now be charged a \$10 annual participation fee.

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, 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



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
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

Stuffed Animal Toy Drive

Our November community service project will be collecting new toys (with original tags and still in the packaging) for McLane's Children Hospital. They are mainly lacking in toys for the infants/toddlers and teenager age groups. They, of course, will accept anything in between.

County Council Meeting

Date: November 13, 2023

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 the Bell County Youth Fair. BCYF Coordinator Cheri O'Braden will present over all things Bell County Youth Fair!

Hope to see everyone at the November meeting!

Chisolm Trail Christmas Ball

This event will take place on **Saturday, December 2nd**, at the Cadence Bank Center. You will wear your official green jacket with black bottoms and COMFORTABLE shoes! You will assist with the live and silent auctions, serve dessert at the dessert bar, and escort attendees to their seat. You will receive more emails from Sheryl Long about this event!

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 FINANCE Meeting

When: November 15, 2023

Where: CEO

Time: 5:00 pm

The finance meeting will wrap up Hunter's Spectacular dollars and establish a budget for the 2023-2024 4-H year.

Membership Advisory Board Meeting

When: November 15, 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

Clover Kids

2022

November 18

June 15 Summer Camp

July 12 Clover Kids Recordbook Deadline

TBD Clover Kids Cupcake Decorating Workshop

2023

January 20

February 5-7 Bell County Youth Fair: Peewee Showmanship

February 17 Clover Kids Fair

March 16

April 20

May 18

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

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

For questions, contact Dawn Brown at 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.

agrillife.org/bell4h/4-h-activities/clover-kids/

For questions, contact Dawn Brown at bc4hcloverkids@yahoo.com

Upcoming Events

Ag Product ID

Ag Product ID practices are continuing. Practices will be on the following dates at 6:00 pm. at the CEO:

November: 1st and 8th (Wednesdays)

Upcoming contests::

District 8 (Belton): November 9th

Bell County Youth Fair: February 9, 2024

Rodeo Austin: March 10, 2021

Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo: March 13, 2024

Registration for both the Austin and Houston contests is open now. Entry deadline is November 10th.

Please contact Michael Canales at 254-541-6293, or guajeman1@gmail.com for more information.

Shooting Sports Coach's Trainings

November 11 & 12 — Conroe

November 11 & 12—Stephenville

- Registration will be conducted through 4-H Online.
- Cost is \$125 per person. Registration will cover meals, snacks, and course materials.
- Only one discipline certification is obtainable per participant per training.

Participants MUST have completed and passed the Background Check PRIOR to registering for the event, so if they have not completed this, they should do so IMMEDIATELY! NO EXCEPTIONS!!!

Visit the website to view more details (including lodging information):

<https://agrillife.org/d84h/events-and-activities/shooting-sports-coaches-training/>

4-H Scholarship Chat

When: December 5th

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! You can join the chat 2 different times -1 in-person and 1 online. All details are below. Be sure to RSVP! Those RSVP's will close the Friday before each workshop [will close on Nov. 3rd for the in person one and on Dec. 1st for the online one].

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.



FCH Project News



Food Challenge Practices

Food Challenge practices continue at 3:00 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall in Belton. This is for the teams that are advancing to the District 8 Contest in December.

Practices are as follows:

November 4 and 18

December 2

District 8 Contest is December 13th in Belton

For more information, contact Barbara Wood at woodbtwice@gmail.com or text 254-624-6507.

FCH Quiz Bowl

Family Consumer Health Quiz Bowl will continue at 6:00 p.m. at the County Extension Office.

Practices are as follows:

November 2

District 8 Contest is on November 9th.

For more information, contact Barbara Wood at woodbtwice@gmail.com or text 254-624-6507.

Leaders 4 Life

Leaders 4 Life practices will continue at 6:00 p.m. at the County Extension Office.

Practices are as follows:

November 9

For more information and to RSVP, please contact Barbara Wood at woodbtwice@gmail.com or text 254-624-6507.

Sewing Saturday

Complete a BCYF sewing craft!

November 4—Recycled Garment

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.

Photography

Attention BCYF Photographers

The Bell County Master Gardeners are offering photography workshops for Juniors age 8-13 and Seniors age 14-19 who are eligible to submit photos in the 2024 Bell County Youth Fair. Must be a 4-H, FFA, or FCCLA member to participate.

Session 3: November 4—Landscape and Leading Line

Location: Bell CEO, Master Gardener Learning Center

Limit: 25 per class

Junior Classes: 8:30-10:00 am

Senior Classes: 10:30 am-12:00 pm

Register at bcmgaspeakers@gmail.com. Provide session number, age division, name and group.

Photography Trip

Homestead Heritage “Living off the Land Festival” Saturday (after Thanksgiving)

November 25, 2023 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Where: 608 Dry Creek Rd, Waco, TX 76705, <http://www.homesteadheritage.com>, 254-754-9600

Who: [All 4-H ages \(including clovers\) and all skill levels.](#)

What: Lots to do and see with a craft barn for younger 4-Hers (small charge for craft supplies). Photography opportunities include nature, animals, people, and action. See barn raising, horse farming, sheep dog trials, horse breaking, petting zoo, hayrides, bee keeping, sheep shearing, and more. Food, games, music too!

Cost: \$12 per person, Children 16 and under free. Free to park.

RSVP: By November 23 <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4CA5A729ABF8CF8-homestead>

AMBASSADOR LEADER: Samantha Richardson

ADULT LEADER: Elizabeth Schlak, liz.schlak@gmail.com, 254-718-1332

Bell County 4-H Exchange Club

The Bell County 4-H Exchange Club has been in existence since the 90's. Our County has a long tradition of Exchanging with other states and the opportunity to learn about other cultures. Some of your family/friends' members were involved and can share their stories... each having their own unique experiences.

What is 4-H Exchange and Why I would want to join?

It is an opportunity of a lifetime... you learn about different cultures, share new ideas, make new friends, make lasting memories, and have a great time!!!

Exchange Objectives

- To enrich our individual lives.
- To expand 4-H understanding beyond the local county to help meet the needs of our club, community, country, and world.
- To encourage further participation in the 4-H program with regards to project work, activities, and leadership responsibilities.
- To develop personally as an individual by learning to think and speak on your feet and to learn to live, work, and interact with people regardless of their customs, and beliefs.

Educational but Fun

Exchanges are mixed with educational programs and entertainment. The week is packed with many activities (early mornings and long evenings) to get maximum experience. Previous states visited include Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Washington, Canada, and others.

Sites visited during visits to others states

Jay Good's Dairy Farms, Hershey Park, Appalachian Trails, White Water Rafting, Pike Place Market, Mall of America, Niagara Falls, Mt Rainier, Swiss Valley Farms, Space Needle, Headwaters of the Mississippi River, Nature Bridge, Port of Poulsbo, USS Turner Joy, Safeco Field, Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour, Pride of Susquehanna, The Amish Farm & House, Prairie du Chien, National Eagle Center, Fishing, Rad Hawks Baseball, Frostfire Mountain, U.S. Customs & Border Protection Tour, & more...

Sites Visited in Texas

44 Farms, Alamo/Riverwalk, The State Capitol, Six Flags, Texas A&M University, Mustang Island, Dr. Pepper Museum, NASA, Magnolia, PRCA Rodeo, Blue Bell Factory, Tower of Americas, Meadows Center, Bullock Museum, Capitol Land & Livestock, Washington-on-the-Brazos, Naval Museum, Sea Star Base, Tenroc Ranch, Moody Gardens, Elissa Liverpool, Wonder World, Seeding Galveston, Waco Mammoth National Monument, Bell County Museum, Austin Bat Tour, & more....

Commitments

Volunteering of your time is the major commitment for Exchange due to the nature of fundraising for activities during the two-year cycle. Guaranteed leadership opportunities and community service hours!

Membership

Membership in this organization is based on a two-year cycle, with required participation at beginning of cycle. Membership shall be open to all youth who are in 7th grade – 11th grade and who reside in Bell County. Must be a currently enrolled 4-H member. All parent(s) must also be enrolled through 4-H Connect and will undergo background screening. Member or family member are required to participate in all fundraising activities during the two-year cycle. Host Exchange members for a week. Parent participation is also required during this week.

New Exchange cycle begins November 5th at 5:00p.m. at Rogers High School-Carol A Bonds Bldg. This is last opportunity to sign up for this term. If interested, please contact us ASAP! *Bell County 4-H Exchange Club only meets once a month.*

For information contact bellcounty4hexchange@gmail.com or 254-493-2548.



Livestock Project News



Major Show Entry Forms Deadline

Bell County Major Show Entry Day is Monday, November 6th! PLEASE READ ALL SECTIONS.

All forms must be turned in to the Extension Office with payment and original signatures. Our normal office hours are from 8 AM–Noon and 1–5 PM, but on November 6th, we will be open from 8 AM–6 PM, all day.

To ensure that all entries from Bell County 4-H are processed and checked thoroughly, no entries will be accepted after the November 6th deadline!

Stock Show Entry Forms:

- To prefill and print your own entry forms, visit <https://agrilife.org/bell4h/projects/4-h-livestock/> or use the links to each entry form on page 4 in the attached 2024 Major Show Dates and Entry Forms!
 - We will also have copies of the forms available at the office.
 - Please visit the show websites to access forms for Calf Scramble and individual contests.
- Let me know if there is an entry form that you need help finding.

Special Notes:

- Paper forms must be filled out completely and submitted with original signatures.
- Fort Worth requires 1 entry form per animal. All other shows require 1 entry form per exhibitor.
- Houston entries must be notarized! We will have a notary available on our Major Show Entry Day.
- All exhibitors must complete the Quality Counts Certification prior to entry. The course must be completed once as a Junior (grades 3-5), Intermediate (grades 6-8), and Senior (grades 9-12). To register, view the attached instruction sheet. For help with technical issues, please email learnonline@ag.tamu.edu. 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.
- When filling out your entry forms for statewide shows, please use **Bell County 4-H** rather than your specific club name.

Gate & Parking Passes:

Do not forget to add your gate and parking passes! I recommend ordering what you need at the time of entry.

Fort Worth: Each exhibitor will receive 1 complimentary gate pass per entry, with a maximum of 4 complimentary passes per exhibitor. Exhibitors with 1-5 entries are allowed to purchase up to 2 parking passes, 6 or more entries are allowed to purchase up to 3 parking passes. If you would like more parking passes per exhibitor, please visit with me.

Texas' Elite & Sandhills: There will be no required gate pass or vehicle pass to enter the grounds.

Houston: 1 complimentary grounds pass will be given per exhibitor regardless of the number of entries. Parking Passes are allotted based on total club/chapter entries and the limited number of parking passes will be shared by exhibitors. In other words, there are no parking passes for purchase.

San Angelo, San Antonio, & Austin: 1 complimentary grounds pass will be given per exhibitor regardless of the number of entries. Additional grounds and parking passes are available for purchase with no limits.

Team Contest Entries:

All team contest entries will be collected by the team coach or agent.

- Ag Product ID: Michael Canales
- Livestock Judging: Whitney Ingram
- Horse Judging: Whitney Ingram
- Meats Judging: Leslie Brown
- Food Challenge: Barbra Wood
- Consumer Decision Making: Barbra Wood



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/>

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!

Call the Extension Office for more information!

BCYF/Major Show Turkey Orders

Turkey orders will arrive at the Bell County Extension Office on Wednesday, November 8th at approximately 3:30 PM. All orders must be picked up by 5:00 PM. Please contact Whitney Ingram if you have any questions.

BCYF/Major Show Swine Validation Dates

BCYF/Major Show Swine: November 20th and 27th; Cadence Bank Center; 4:00 - 7:00 PM

Special Notes for Swine Validations:

- **A parent of the exhibitor must be present during major show validation.** If there is a conflict, please notify Whitney Ingram in advance so additional paperwork can be filled out prior to validation.
- All Market Barrows, Registered Breeding Gilts, and Crossbred/Commercial Breeding Gilts will use the same RFID validation tag.
- Registered Gilt papers must be owned on or before November 30, 2023 and they must also be registered (litter registration, bottom left hand corner) on or before December 1, 2023. There are NO EXCEPTIONS!

Stockhorse Clinic with Heather Young

When: December 9 & 10

Where: Bar 17 Arena, Lampasas, TX

RSVP: November 7th

Cost: \$30

Heather's vast equine knowledge and specialization encompasses judging, training, coaching and showing.

Saturday—Stockhorse pleasure, ranch riding, and trail

Sunday—Cowboxing and ranch roping.

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 31st, so do it quickly.

Other Important Information

The 2024 Fair Book will be posted soon. 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

Broiler Orders Due	November 3, 2023	5:00 PM
Turkey Pick Up (Tentatively)	November 8, 2023	
Commercial Heifer Palpate & Judge	November 18, 2023	
Validate Swine	November 20 & 27, 2023	4:00 - 7:00 PM
Online Entry Deadline	December 1, 2023	5:00 PM
Chisholm Trail Christmas Ball	December 2, 2023	
Pick Up Roasters	December 8, 2023	3:30 - 5:30 PM
Commercial Heifer Sale	December 15, 2023	Milam County Auction
Photography Upload	January 1-12, 2024	
Pick Up Broilers	January 5, 2024	3:30 - 5:30 PM
Rabbits Validation	January 7, 2024	3:00 - 5:00 PM
Weigh Out Commercial Steers	January 27, 2024	8:00 AM
Commercial Steer Recordbooks Due	February 2, 2024	5:00 PM

BCYF Entries

Entries will open on **October 16, 2023 at 8:00 AM**. All exhibitors must submit their entries online by **December 1st, 2023 at 5:00 PM**. For more information and to access the entry link, please visit the BCYF website <https://agrilife.org/bellctyyouthfair/>.

Bell County Youth Fair

February 2-10, 2024

BCYF Poultry Orders

Broiler Orders are due **November 3, 2023**

Order forms are posted on the BCYF website <https://agrilife.org/bellctyyouthfair/>. Forms and payment are due to the Bell County Extension Office by 5:00 PM on the respective due dates.

Save the Date: BCYF Validation Dates

County only tags for sheep, goats, and swine will be purchased on-site for \$5.00 the night of validation.

BCYF/Major Show Swine Validation: **November 20 and 27**

Bell County Youth Fair – PeeWee Showmanship

Location:

Cadence Bank Center
301 West Loop 121, Belton, TX 76513
(Formerly Bell County Expo Center)

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 - 2nd 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

Important Dates

November 2023

December 2023

November 1: Ag Product Id Practice
November 2: FCH Quiz Bowl Practice
November 3: BCYF Broiler Orders Due
November 4: Food Challenge Practice
November 4: Sewing Saturday
November 4: BCYF Photography Workshop
November 4 & 5: Holiday Classic
November 6: Major Show Entry Deadline
November 8: BCYF Turkey Pick Up
November 8: Ag Product Id Practice
November 9: Leaders 4 Life Practice
November 11-12: Shooting Sports Coaches Training
November 13: County Council Meeting
November 15: MAB Meeting & Finance Meeting
November 18: BCYF Commercial Heifer Palpate & Judge
November 18: Food Challenge Practice
November 18: Clover Kids Meeting
November 20: Major Show & BCYF Swine Validation
November 27: Major Show & BCYF Swine Validation

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 8: BCYF Roaster Pick Up
December 9 & 10: Stockhorse Clinic
December 15: BCYF Commercial Heifer Sale
December 16: Sewing Saturday
December 21: County Council/Ambassador Christmas
Party

TEXAS A&M
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BELL COUNTY
4-H NEWSLETTER

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

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