

January 2024 Focus

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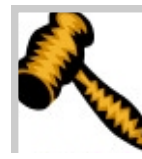
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County Council & Ambassadors



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=IwAR0GXNVUEPPmsonoH3evKR55vEl6du3IfCeRNq8Xefui4oTZi623SQeuZnY

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 January meeting!

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!

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.

2024 Scholarships Available!

Houston Livestock Show Exhibitor , Hildebrand, & Area Go Texan Scholarship— **January 31**

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

Texas Extension Education Association—**February 12th**

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

Bell County 4-H Scholarship—**March 1st**

Texas Farm Bureau Scholarship—**March 1st**

Bell County Youth Fair—**April 8th**

San Angelo Livestock Show Scholarship— **TBD**

Capital Farm Credit Scholarship—**TBD**

Lone Star Ag 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

Ag Product Id

Ag Product ID practices are resuming this month ahead of the BCYF and spring contests. Practices will be at 6:00 pm at the CEO on the following days:

January: 4, 11, 18, 25

February: 1

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 BCYF contest is now open. 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.**

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

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 deadline has already past.

- 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 is on the Bell County 4-H Clover Kids website.

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

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

Upcoming Events

Bell County Photography Contest

The Bell County 4-H Photography Contest is right around the corner so start preparations now! The Bell County entry deadline will be **Friday, February 23rd**. 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 4-H 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 the State contest.

Please make sure and follow the instruction on the 2023 Texas 4-H Photography Contest Rules & Guidelines AND the District 8 Contest rules. Both will be posted on the Bell County 4-H website once available.

NEW THIS YEAR!

Categories will be broken down per age division as follows: (Descriptions Below)

Junior Age Division 3 Categories

Animals – Domestic/Wildlife
Plant/Landscape/Nature
People

Intermediate Age Division 6 Categories

Animals – Domestic/Wildlife
Plant/Landscape/Nature
People
Details/Macro
Elements of Design
Catch All

Senior Age Division All 15 Categories

Animals—Domestic	Long Exposure
Animal—Wildlife	Motion/Action
Catch All	People
Details & Macro	Plant/Flora
Elements of Design	Shadow/Silhouette
Enhanced	Theme—"Abandoned "- Photographs capturing
Food	the essence of forgotten or neglected places, things, or
Landscape & Nature (non-animal)	structures; emphasizing its worn and forsaken nature
Leading Line	



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:

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.

Sewing Saturday

Complete a BCYF sewing craft!

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!

Bell County Fashion Show Contest & Duds to Dazzle Contests

The Bell County 4-H contests for Fashion Show contest will have a date determined very soon! So start working on your projects NOW!

For the Duds to Dazzle contest, the entry deadline will be the Bell County 4-H Contest date! Extension Agents will make team assignments after the Bell County contest. You **will not** pre-determine your team. Entry forms can be found on the Bell County 4-H website once the Bell County Contest date has been set.

Ir/Int Buying

Everyday Living
Fashion Under \$25
Dressy
Special Interest

Ir/Int Construction

Everyday Living
ReFashion
Dressy
Special Interest

Senior Buying

Business/Interview Attire
Fashion Under \$25
Semi-Formal to Formal
Special Interest

Senior Construction

Everyday Living
ReFashion
Semi-Formal to Formal
Theater/Costume

Entry forms must be emailed to Sheryl.Long@ag.tamu.edu **AND** Laila.Romero@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/>

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/3NzoIjK9Pco> 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.

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 e-mail whitney.ingram@ag.tamu.edu to schedule a project visit at your barn.

Bell County Youth Fair

February 3-10, 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.

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

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 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 3-10, 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 - 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

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

January 2024

January 3: BCYF Container Pick Up– Club Managers ONLY
January 4: CDM Practice
January 4: Ag Product Id 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 11: Ag Product Id Practice
January 12: BCYF Photography Upload Deadline
January 12: BCYF Home School Eligibility Deadline
January 18: County Council Meeting
January 18: Ag Product Id Practice
January 20: Clover Kid Meeting
January 24: MAB Meeting
January 25: CDM Practice
January 25: Ag Product Id Practice
January 27: BCYF Commercial Steer Weigh Out
January 29: BCYF Ride Night—Western Events
January 30: BCYF Ride Night—English/Halter Classes
January 31: Houston Livestock Show Scholarship Due

February 2024

February 1: BCYF Ride Night—Speed Events
February 1: State Fair of Texas Scholarship Deadline
February 1: CDM Practice
February 1: Ag Product Id Practice
February 2: BCYF Ride Night—Performance Classes
February 2: BCYF Ride Night—Stock Horse/Cattle Classes
February 2: BCYF Commercial Steer Recordbooks Due
February 3-10: Bell County Youth Fair
February 12: TEEA Scholarship Deadline
February 15: Texas 4-H Foundation Scholarship Deadline
February 17: Clover Kids Fair
February 22: CDM Practice
February 23: Bell County 4-H Photography Contest
Deadline
February 29: CDM Practice

March 2024

March 1: Bell County 4-H Scholarship Deadline
March 7: CDM Practice
March 14: CDM Practice
March 28: CDM Practice

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/>