

# March 2024 Focus

## Bell County Staff

### **Sheryl Austin**

Cooperative Extension  
Family & Community  
Health

### **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

### **Laila Romero**

4-H Program Assistant

### **Sherry Spence-Purcella**

BLT Extension Agent



## **BCYF Thank you!**

We want to thank everyone who was involved in planning and preparing for the Bell County Youth Fair. This event could not happen without the support of our 4-H Club Managers, volunteers and parents.

## **Bell County Youth Fair**

- Auction Exhibitor Main Buyer Thank You Cards are due **March 20th**.
- BCYF General Membership Meeting will be at **6:00 pm on Thursday, March 28th** in Special Events Room at the Cadence Bank Center.



1605 N. Main, Room 102

Belton, TX 76513

Phone: (254) 933-5305

Fax: (254) 933-5312

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

As of March 1<sup>st</sup>, Whitney Ingram has assumed a new role as the Assistant General Manager of Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District. The District is responsible for the management of groundwater in Bell County. You will definitely still see Whitney around as she becomes a partner of the Bell County Extension Office in her new role, continuing to support our Water Ambassadors and serve on committees!

“Bell County 4-H has one of the best 4-H programs in the state - it’s something to be proud of! I’m so lucky that I got to start my career here with you! To all of our 4-H families, I cannot thank you enough for the support you have shown me and our programs in the past 7.5 years. We have made so many incredible memories that I will cherish my entire life. I got to watch first hand as Bell County 4-H celebrated many remarkable successes that I know will always continue in a program like this. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with each of you in this role, and lucky for me, that friendship does not have to come to an end since I’m not going far. Thank you for your support of me and our office during this time of transition.” - Whitney Ingram



*Join Us For A Come & Go Baby Shower Honoring*

*Whitney & Floyd Ingram*

**FRIDAY | 19TH APRIL | 11AM - 1PM**

*Bell County Extension Office  
1605 N. Main Street, Belton, TX 76513*

*Registered at  
Amazon*

# Leadership Opportunities

## Texas 4-H Council—At Large Delegate

The 2024-2025 Texas 4-H Council – At Large Delegate applications are now available online at <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/ambassadors/>. Deadline to apply is **March 28, 2024**.

Members of this team are elected by their peers from across the state of Texas, representing the twelve AgriLife Extension districts plus an additional six At-Large Delegates. The Texas 4-H Council members serve as ambassadors for the Texas 4-H program. Members represent the organization statewide while collaborating with Extension faculty to plan, coordinate, and facilitate activities and events.

Candidates elected at the state level for the At-Large position will not be eligible for any position at the district level. Candidates not elected during the state level elections are eligible to run for a district position given they meet district eligibility requirements. At-large positions will have equal state level rights and privileges as all other positions

### COMMITMENT DATES:

- July 22-25, 2024 – **Texas 4-H Council Workshop** – Location Kingsville/Corpus Christi area
  - October TBD, 2024 (Dates set by State Fair of Texas) - **State Fair of Texas Honor Awards -- Fall Planning Meeting** - Dallas, TX
  - November 8-10, 2024 - **Spark** – Brownwood, TX *TENTATIVE Must have enough committed to attend*
    - January 3-5, 2025 – **January Planning Meeting** - College Station or Brownwood (TBD)
    - June 1-5, 2025 – **Texas 4-H Roundup** – College Station, TX
- Monthly Online Conference Calls (dates to be distributed during Workshop)  
*Other opportunities may/will be offered to members as they are identified throughout the year*

## District 8 Council Officer Application

The District Council information page has been updated and is attached. All information has been updated on the [district website](#).

### To be eligible to run for a District 8 4-H Council Office, 4-H members must meet the following requirements:

Must have attended a prior District 4-H SURGE (Leadership Lab).

Must attend 2024 District 8 4-H SURGE.

Must have completed at least the 9th grade.

Review the D8 4-H Council Standing Rules at <http://agrilife.org/d84h/district-4-h-council>.

- Applications will close **May 24, 2024**. Absolutely no late applications will be accepted.
- Interviews will be conducted on **May 31<sup>st</sup>**, in Waco. \*\*Please be advised that we are exploring the option of doing all interviews virtually, to allow a little more flexibility for our students. We will announce which option will be used as we get closer to that date.
  - Applicants must have attended a prior SURGE.
- Applicants **MUST** attend this year's SURGE and have plans to attend the 2025 SURGE (dates for this are coming soon!)
- If a student is planning to run for Chair or 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair, they must also fill out the Texas 4-H Contract (attached).

# *Texas 4-H Congress*

## **What is Congress?**

Texas 4-H Congress is a four-day mock legislative experience for 4-H members going into 9<sup>th</sup> grade – through those who just graduated 12<sup>th</sup> Grade (at the time of the event). During this time, 4-H members assume the roles of legislators, lobbyists, and press corps to gain a first-hand understanding of how the legislative process works. Bills that are written and sponsored by 4-H members focus on issues concerning Texas and Texas youth. These bills are assigned to the appropriate committee, debated in committee meetings, and then on the floor of the House or Senate. If a bill is successful in negotiation and the legislative debate in all three stages, it is delivered to the Governor of Texas 4-H Congress for his or her signature or veto. Copies of all the bills that are signed into law during Texas 4-H Congress are provided to the Office of the Governor for review.

## **When is this held?**

Congress will begin on July 14<sup>th</sup> and end on July 17<sup>th</sup>, in Austin. Accommodations will be at the Sheraton Hotel, with full facilitation taking place at the Texas State Capitol Building.

## **Age Eligibility**

Official grades for Texas 4-H Congress are members going into 9<sup>th</sup> grade – through those who just graduated 12<sup>th</sup> Grade (at the time of the event). This is a prestigious event reserved for older 4-H members. Because of the number of 4-H members allowed to attend, counties should make it a priority to select older 4-H members for the House and Senate that have never attended the event.

## **Participant Quotas**

The District 8 delegate quota will be 20 House/Senate members. E-mail Sheryl Long at [Sheryl.Long@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Sheryl.Long@ag.tamu.edu) NO LATER THAN Friday, March 22nd if you want to be added to the list!

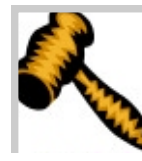
## ***All participants in Texas 4-H Congress must submit a COMPLETE bill for consideration.***

“All” includes Texas 4-H Leadership Team, Lobbyists, Press Corps, and District Delegates. To accomplish the writing and submission of legislative bills, it is recommended that the County Extension Agent, or a volunteer, assist the youth in learning what a quality bill includes, how to write one, and then submitting the bill on-line. Refer to the Texas 4-H publication entitled “Understanding the Texas Legislative Process, A Guide for Participating in Texas 4-H Congress.” This publication is located on the Texas 4-H website. 4-H members from the same county, or other counties, are not allowed to submit the same bill for meeting this requirement.

All necessary forms for Texas 4-H Congress will be posted on the Texas 4-H Congress website, as well as sent electronically to each participant in the Texas 4-H Congress participant packet.



# 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
March 26	Fire Department	Community Garden Donation
May 9	Council Officer Elections	Non-Perishable Food Drive

## County Council Meeting

**Date:** March 26, 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 Texas 4-H Ambassador Programs.

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

## Community Garden Donations

The Belton Community Garden was established in July, 2015, and is located at Heritage Park– 100 Park Avenue, Belton, TX 76513. The Garden is comprised of 39 garden plots which are 8ft x 4ft in size

Let's help out our local community garden! Goods and supplies needed:

Seed packages

Hand tools

Sprinklers

Other tools: rakes, hoses, shovels, pruners, etc.

Garden Fertilizer

Small bottles of Weed killer

Small bottles of Insecticides

Monetary donations (501 (3) non-profit corporation)

**WISH LIST:**

Small equipment: chainsaws, lawnmowers, tillers

# *4-H Club Managers & Volunteers*

## **Membership Advisory Board Meeting**

**When:** May 7, 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.

## **Club Manager Connection**

We will once again host a series of workshops designed specifically for our outstanding club managers! These workshops are designed to provide you an opportunity to learn more about the in's and out's of being a club manager, but also allow you time to connect with others in the same role from across our district. These connection events will be held on the dates below. Each program will start at 7:00 and end around 8:15pm. They will all be held via Microsoft Teams.

The dates for these workshops are below:

March 26th— Navigating the actual management of the club

May 16th—Planning for next year

September 12th—Keeping kids engaged + a little risk management

November 19th—Working with you officer team and your agent

Check out the March Club Manager Connection Newsletter here: [LINK](#)

# *Scholarships*

## **2024 Scholarships Available!**

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

Bell County Area Go Texan— **March 1st**

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

Heart O' Texas Fair & Rodeo Scholarship—**March 22**

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**

Don't hesitate to ask for help if you have any questions regarding scholarships.



# Upcoming Events

## Ag Product Id

Ag Product ID practices are continuing ahead of the spring contests. Practices will be held on the following days at 6:00 pm at the CEO.

**March:** 7th, 28th

**April:** 4th

Upcoming contests::

Rodeo Austin: March 10, 2021

Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo: March 13, 2024

**Leon County: April 12, 2024 - REGISTRATION IS 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](mailto:guajeman1@gmail.com).**

## Clover Kids 2024

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 [bc4hclo-verkids@yahoo.com](mailto:bc4hclo-verkids@yahoo.com)

## Reasons Workshop

Learn from the experts! District 8 4-H will be hosting a reasons workshop open to all 4-H members and coaches!

**Date:** March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Time:** 7:00 PM

**Location:** Microsoft Teams (link to be sent as we get closer to date)

**Contests Covered:** CDM, Horse, Livestock, Meats

Link to RSVP: <https://forms.gle/sZ3ZAHsuMKoPpckr6>

CDM	Horse	Livestock	Meats
<b>Adult Coordinator:</b> Micah Holcombe	<b>Adult Coordinator:</b> Becky Coward	<b>Adult Coordinator:</b> Jerod Meurer	<b>Adult Coordinator:</b> Jerod Meurer
<b>Youth Speakers:</b> Macy McDaniel Luke Holcombe	<b>Youth Speakers:</b> Luduicka Rodriguez TBD	<b>Youth Speakers:</b> Paisley Groschke Cole Coufal	<b>Youth Speakers:</b> Harlie Groom Brecken Shipman

# Upcoming Events

## **Bell County Round Up and 4-H Talent Showcase**

The Bell County Roundup includes 3 different contests. Educational Presentations, Public Speaking and 4-H Talent Showcase (formerly Share The Fun). You must enter the county contest in order to advance to the District 8 Contest.

Entries due to Sheryl.Long@ag.tamu.edu by **Friday, March 22, 2024**

Contest will take place at the Bell County Extension Office on **Tuesday, April 9, 2024**

**Educational Presentations** are where you teach the audience about a certain topic/4-H project or it can also be a “how to” methods demonstration. Only open to individuals or teams of two.

Categories for Educational Presentations include:

**Agricultural Technology & Farm Safety, Animal Science , Beef, Health & Wellness, Horse, Open, Open – Agriculture & Natural Resources, Open – Family & Consumer Health, Promote 4-H, Safety & Injury Prevention**

**Public Speaking** is speaking to a group without visuals and about an issue or topic.

**4-H Talent Showcase (formerly Share The Fun)** is similar to a talent show for those who are very talented with music whether that is singing, playing an instrument or dancing, poetry, or skits. The skit is a “Celebrate 4-H” skit, it usually is something very entertaining and fun that has to do with 4-H.

Categories include:

**Choreographed Routines, Variety Show, Musical/Instrumental, Vocal, Solo/Band, 4-H Skit, Poetry/Prose**

Entry Forms and more information can be found on the Bell County 4-H website under Projects.

4-H members may participate in multiple events. 4-H members of all age divisions may enter a maximum of one contest from each of the three columns on the website <http://agrilife.org/bell4h/projects/roundup-contest/>

For a description of what could possibly fit under each category, go to Bell County 4-H Roundup Website: <http://agrilife.org/bell4h/projects/roundup-contest/>

## **District 8 Rifle/Light Rifle Contest**

If you are interested in competing in the District 8 Rifle Contest that will take place on **Saturday, April 27th**, at the Leon County Gun Club in Oakwood, entry deadline is **April 12, 2024** on 4-H Connect. Cost is \$10 per member per match.

All details are updated on the website: <https://agrilife.org/d84h/events-and-activities/rifle-contest/>

Contact Sheryl Long if you have any questions regarding this contest.



# Photography Events

## MARCH 2024

### **PRACTICE Opportunity – Palo Duro Canyon March 15-18, 2024**

**Who:** All 4-H age kids 8-18 years old and families

**What:** Shoot Palo Duro Canyon – the “Grand Canyon of Texas”!

**Where:** Palo Duro State Park

**Cost:** No 4-H fees. Families are responsible for their own expenses.

**RSVP:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4CA5A729ABF8CF8-palo>

**AMBASSADOR LEADERS:** Allison Gray and Joeseeph LeBlanc

**ADULT LEADER:** Elizabeth Schlak, 254-718-1332, [liz.schlak@gmail.com](mailto:liz.schlak@gmail.com)

## APRIL 2024

**DUE DATE - JMP Applications: April 1, 2024** Open **ONLY** to JMP candidates that have attended both JMP 1 and JMP 2 workshops. Link was provided at JMP 2 workshop.

### **PRACTICE Opportunity – Solar Eclipse VIEWING/PHOTOGRAPHY: April 8, 2024**

**Who:** All 4-Hers, All skill levels

**What:** Viewing/photographing the event open to all 4-Hers!

**Where:** District IV 4-H Center, 17360 Coit Rd, Dallas

**Cost:** No 4-H fees. Families are responsible for their own expenses.

**RSVP:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4CA5A729ABF8CF8-46769368-solar>

**ADULT LEADER:** Derrick Bruton, [Derrick.Bruton@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Derrick.Bruton@ag.tamu.edu)

### **PRACTICE Opportunity – Hill Country Bluebonnets: April 13, 2024**

**Who:** All 4-H age kids 8-18 years old and families

**What:** Travel through the beautiful hill country stopping at scenic locations to practice landscape/flower portraiture.

**Where:** Route/destination depends on status of bluebonnet fields. Possible locations: along HWY 290 towards Burnett, Muleshoe Bend, Perdinales, or HWY 281.

**Cost:** No 4-H fees.

**AMBASSADOR LEADERS:** Abigail Kailukaitis

**RSVP:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4CA5A729ABF8CF8-bluebonnet>

**ADULT LEADER:** Elizabeth Schlak, 254-718-1332, [liz.schlak@gmail.com](mailto:liz.schlak@gmail.com)

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE & PRACTICE Opportunity- Cotton Gin Festival: Saturday, April 20, 2024 10 am- 4 pm**

**Who** All 4-H age kids 8-18 years old. Clovers welcome with parent or guardian.

**What:** Have fun and get some great shots at this family-friendly event! Concentration in people and food photography. All photos will be donated to the festival/museum.

**Where:** Main Street area, Burton, TX

**Cost:** Free

**RSVP:** On Sign-Up Genius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4CA5A729ABF8CF8-cotton>

**AMBASSADOR LEADER:** Audrey Schmidt, [audreyschmidt0906@gmail.com](mailto:audreyschmidt0906@gmail.com)

**ADULT LEADER:** Victoria Schmidt, 979-353-2586, [Victoria.schmidt76@yahoo.com](mailto:Victoria.schmidt76@yahoo.com)



# *FCH Project News*



## **FCH Coalition Meeting**

**When:** Monday, March 25, 2024

**Where:** Bell CEO

**Time:** 6:00 pm

## **Consumer Decision Making**

Consumer Decision Making (CDM) is a judging contest geared around evaluating products for a given consumer. The District CDM contest will be held in Cleburne on April 15. If you intend to participate in this District contest, please notify Barbara Wood no later than March 22, 2024. Practices will be held at the County Extension Office and are as follows:

**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).

## **District 8 Fashion Show Contest & Duds to Dazzle Contests**

The District 8 Fashion Show and Duds to Dazzle contests will take place on **Monday, April 15, 2024** at the Cleburne Conference Center. Sheryl Long will handle entering those that advance to the District 8 Contest on 4-H Online. **The families will need to email their child's District 8 paperwork to [Sheryl.Long@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Sheryl.Long@ag.tamu.edu) no later than Friday, March 15th!**

For the Duds to Dazzle contest, no paperwork is needed and Sheryl will be entering those teams as well.

If you have any questions in regards to rules, presentation times, etc., that information can be found on the District 8 website: <https://agrilife.org/d84h/events-and-activities/fashion-show-fashion-storyboard/>



# 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/>

### Save the Date for Spring District Contests

**District 8 Horse Judging Contest:** April 6th, Hildebrand Equine Complex, College Station

To sign up, contact Sheryl Long at [Sheryl.Long@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Sheryl.Long@ag.tamu.edu).

**District 8 Livestock Judging Contest:** April 20th, Pearce Pavilion, College Station

To sign up, contact Sheryl Long at [Sheryl.Long@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Sheryl.Long@ag.tamu.edu).

**District 8 Meats Judging Contest:** April 20th, Rosenthal Meats Lab, College Station

To sign up, contact Leslie Brown at [lescbrown@yahoo.com](mailto:lescbrown@yahoo.com).

**Deadline of March 15th for ALL CONTESTS!**

### Texas 4-H Calf Roping and Break-A-Way School

On June 16- 20, 2024, the Statewide Texas 4-H Calf Roping and Break-A-Way School will be held in Stephenville, Texas. The school will be held at Park Your Pony Arena. This event has been developed to encourage young people in 4H to develop leadership skills and to exercise their abilities in working with younger members in roping activities in 4-H. Participation is open to all districts of the state, with applications being accepted on a first come, first-serve basis with priority to those who are 12 years of age and older. The maximum number which can be accommodated is 50. All participants MUST be a current member of 4-H to participate.

May 3rd deadline

**The cost of the school will be \$600 per participant for the week.** This will include group insurance, meals, lodging, cost of the practice calves in the teaching process, and stall rent for one horse. If you want to bring extra horses or reserve an RV spot, you will need to contact Park Your Pony directly to make arrangements and payment for additional stalls.

### BCYF Commercial Heifers

- Validation will be March 30th at the Downing working pens.
- Cattle will be sold at Milam County Livestock. A record book will be required to be submitted in February.
  - Awards will be announced during the BCYF Auction. More information in the BCYF fair book.

If you have any questions, contact Cheri O'Braden at the Bell County Youth Fair Office.



# Livestock Project News



## June Livestock Validation Tag Order Information

Bell County validations **REQUIRE** all 4-H and FFA members to order and pay for their tags prior to validation to ensure the correct number of tags are ordered. All orders must be handled through the Bell County Extension Office or placed online through the Bell Livestock Coalition Square Site.

### Order Deadlines:

All cattle, State Fair, and Heart O' Texas Fair tag orders are due by **Wednesday, April 1st!**

### 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** and pay with cash or check, please go to the Extension Office with payment, payable to the **Bell Livestock Coalition**. Tag orders will not be accepted without payment. Orders placed after the deadline will be subject to late fees.

### SCHEDULED DATES & SPECIAL NOTES

**Steer & Heifer Validation:** Monday, June 24<sup>th</sup> from 7:00–10:00 AM and 4:00–6:00 PM at the Cadence Bank Center – Garth Arena

**REGISTERED HEIFERS:** The deadline for ownership, transfer, and registration for Registered Breeding Heifers is June 30, 2024. A color, PDF copy of the original registration papers should be emailed to your County Extension Agent ([Floyd.Ingram@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Floyd.Ingram@ag.tamu.edu)) or Ag Teacher by June 30, 2024.

### All state validated heifers will be tagged similar to steers.

Both steers and heifers will be charged an increased validation fee of \$30/head. In an effort to be in compliance with Texas Animal Health Commission, 840 frequency EID tags will allow our state validated livestock to move in compliance with TAHC across state lines and be in compliance when issues a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (health papers).

1. Heifers already validated do NOT have to be revalidated. 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 Sheep & Goat Validation:** Location and Schedule TBD

Lambs and goats validated during the 2024 State Fair Validation Period will be eligible for 2025 Spring Major Shows. Market animals validated for the 2024 State Fair will carryover for 2025 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.

**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, 2024. A color, PDF copy of the original registration papers should be emailed to ([Sheryl.Long@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Sheryl.Long@ag.tamu.edu)) by June 30, 2024. If applicable, please carbon your ag teacher.

### **State Fair of Texas & Heart O' Texas Fair Swine Validation:** Location and Schedule TBD

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, 2024. A color, PDF copy of the original registration papers should be emailed to your County Extension Agent ([Sheryl.Long@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Sheryl.Long@ag.tamu.edu)) or Ag Teacher by June 30, 2024.

It is time to place validation tag orders for the following livestock projects:

### **2024-2025 BCYF & Major Show Cattle**

- State/BCYF Market Steers
- State/BCYF Registered Heifers

### **2024 State Fair of Texas**

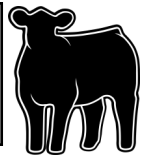
- Market Lambs & Goats
- Registered/Commercial Breeding Sheep & Goats
- Market Barrows
- Registered/Crossbred Gilts

### **2023 Heart O' Texas Fair**

- Registered/Crossbred Gilts



# Livestock Project News



## Texas 4-H Horse Validation

Texas 4-H Horse Validation for the 2024 season **will be open in 4-H Online from March 1 – May 1, 2024.**

A few important reminders:

- ALL horses must be validated/re-validated each year. There is no limit to the number of horses that can be validated. You are encouraged to validate all horses that may possibly be shown at district and/or state shows. Only state validated horses can be substituted in the event that a validated horse becomes unusable due to lameness, sickness, etc.
- The family can submit payment of \$10.00 per horse (\$20.00 after April 15<sup>th</sup>, or \$250 from May 1<sup>st</sup> to May 5<sup>th</sup>), in the form of a **credit card ONLY**.
- **From March 1 – April 15, the validation cost for each horse is \$10.00.** The \$10.00 cost is only guaranteed if the animal validation is approved by the county office by the April 15<sup>th</sup> deadline and the payment is processed.
- **From April 16 – May 1, the validation cost for each horse is \$20.00.** The \$20.00 cost is only guaranteed if the animal validation is approved by the county office by the May 1<sup>st</sup> deadline and the payment is processed.
  - Each validation must include front view, right side view, and left side view images. **The entire horse should be included in the photo and markings should be clearly visible.**
  - **If the horse is registered, a copy of the registration papers must be uploaded.** These papers must list the 4-Her, sibling, parent, stepparent, grandparent or legal guardian as the current owner. If the ownership is in the process of being transferred, please list “pending” in the registration number area. Once the updated registration papers have been received, please email me a copy of the new papers and I will add it to the validation online.

Lease horses are eligible to be validated and shown at District and State 4-H Horse Shows. An official Texas 4-H Horse Lease Agreement must be signed by the exhibitor, horse owner, and the supervising County Extension Agent. The lease period must include, at minimum, May 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup> of the current 4-H year. The lease agreement form can be found at <https://texasyouthlivestock.com/horse-validation/> and must be uploaded in 4-H Online at the time of validation.

- Image uploads in 4-H Online must be in the form of a .jpg, .gif or .png file.
  - **Families should validate each horse only one time.** Once the horse is validated, any sibling within that family in 4-H Online is eligible to show the horse at their district show and/or the State 4-H Horse Show.
- Youth validating a futurity horse must be at least 12 years of age (as of Sept. 1, 2023) and at least in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade.**

Validation walk-through guide for families: [https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/4honline\\_family\\_guide\\_horse\\_validation\\_2023.pdf](https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/4honline_family_guide_horse_validation_2023.pdf)

For additional one-pagers and other resources, please visit <https://texasyouthlivestock.com/horse-validation/>

Validation walk-through video: <https://youtu.be/OPoOmyC1kTk>

- The family will receive an automated message from 4-H Online when the County Extension Agent has approved the horse at the county level. **This approval does NOT guarantee eligibility.** After it is approved at the county level, the validation will then be reviewed at the state level. The family will be notified by June 1<sup>st</sup> if there are any issues with the validation at the state level.

We will begin to review validations at the state level on March 1<sup>st</sup> and will be working closely with families and agents to fix errors as quickly as possible prior to the validation deadline.



# Livestock Project News



## Texas 4-H Livestock, Equine and Poultry Ambassador Programs

### **2024 Short Course Offering:**

1. Texas 4-H Equine Ambassador Short Course, Texas Tech University – June 10-13, 2024
  2. Texas 4-H Poultry Ambassador Short Course, Texas A&M University – June 24-27, 2024
  3. Texas 4-H Livestock Ambassador Short Course, Texas A&M University-Kingsville – June 17-20, 2024
  4. Texas 4-H Livestock Ambassador Short Course, Texas A&M University – July 15-18, 2024
- Texas 4-H Livestock Ambassador Short Course, West Texas A&M University/Texas Tech University – July 22-25, 2024

### **Selection Criteria:**

- Senior level (grades 9-12 in fall 2024) 4-H youth that have exhibited a superior level of ambition regarding his/her livestock/equine/poultry projects
  - Students with a profound interest in animal/equine/poultry science, animal production and advocacy
  - Students have shown advanced leadership qualities and a willingness to help others
- Top 25% class rank

### **1 Application Process:**

Applications will be released on the Texas Youth Livestock and Agriculture website

([www.texasyouthlivestock.com](http://www.texasyouthlivestock.com)) on February 15, 2024

2. Student will complete the application and enter the contact information of supervising County Extension Agent
  3. CEA will be automatically emailed a recommendation survey
  4. A selection committee will review the applications and accept up to 25 participants per short course
- Applications are due April 15, 2024

### **1 2024 Phase II and Phase III Offering:**

1. Texas 4-H Advocacy Academy, Austin – July 1-3, 2024
2. Texas 4-H Mountain West Agricultural Experience – July 27-August 6, 2024 - \*dates tentative\*





# Summer Fun Activities



## District 8 Leadership Lab (Surge)

### **SURGE:**

**What it is?** SURGE is our Leadership Lab camp. This camp is designed for our Senior aged youth. 4-H members who have completed at least the 8th grade at the time of SURGE may participate. The registration fee covers 3 nights of lodging, all meals, program activities, insurance, curriculum, and T-shirts. The attire is school appropriate (casual). Each evening there is a dance and many kids want to dress up. However, there are kids who wear summer clothes and each night is a theme dance so costumes are permitted. This camp is hosted by the District 8 Council Officer team. We will also elect our new slate of officers at this camp.

### **Other Details:**

**What:** SURGE (Leadership Lab)

**When:** June 24-27<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Where:** Courtyard Marriott-New Braunfels Village, New Braunfels

**Cost:** \$300/student, \$274/adult

**Service Project:** We will be making tissue paper floral arrangements. If you have pipe cleaners or tissue paper to share, please bring it with you.

**Theme & Dance Themes:** This year's theme for SURGE is "Living the 4-H Dream." We invite you to join as we live out our 4-H Dreams! We are dreaming of our dream job, our dream vacation, our dream 4-H experience, and we hope to bring all those dreams to fruition through our dream organization at this year's SURGE.

Dance themes for each night are as follows:

Monday-Tacky Tourist [Hawaiian] Tuesday-Dress for your Dream Job

Wednesday-Sunday Best [Etiquette Dinner]

Deadline is May 24, 2024!

Reach out to [Sheryl.Long@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Sheryl.Long@ag.tamu.edu) if you have any questions.

# Important Dates

March 2024

**March 1:** Bell County 4-H Scholarship Deadline  
**March 1:** Bell County Area Go Texan Scholarship Deadline  
**March 1:** Texas Farm Bureau Scholarship Deadline  
**March 1:** TX 4-H Horse Validation Begins  
**March 7:** CDM Practice  
**March 7:** Ag Product Id Practice  
**March 14:** CDM Practice  
**March 15:** D8 Meats, LJ, and Horse Judging Deadline  
**March 15:** D8 Fashion Show Paperwork due to Sheryl L  
**March 15-18:** Photography Workshop  
**March 15:** D8 Livestock Judging, Meat Judging and Horse Judging Entry deadline  
**March 16:** Clover Kids Meeting  
**March 20:** BCYRD Main Buyer Thank You Card Deadline  
**March 22:** HOT Fair Scholarship Deadline  
**March 22:** Texas 4-H Congress Interest Deadline  
**March 22:** BC 4-H Round Up & Talents Showcase Entry Deadline  
**March 25:** 4-H/FCH Coalition Meeting  
**March 26:** Club Manager Connection  
**March 26:** County Council  
**March 28:** CDM Practice  
**March 28:** Ag Product Id Practice  
**March 28:** BCYF General Membership Meeting  
**March 28:** D8 Reasons Workshop  
**March 28:** Texas 4-H Council-At Large Delegate applicant deadline  
**March 30:** BCYF Commercial Heifer Validation

April 2024

**April 1:** ALL TAG ORDERS DUE—all cattle, State Fair, and Heart O' Texas Fair Tag orders due  
**April 4:** CDM Practice  
**April 4:** Ag Product Id Practice  
**April 6:** District 8 Horse Judging, College Station  
**April 8:** Bell County Youth Fair Scholarship Deadline  
**April 9:** Bell County 4-H Round Up & Talent Showcase Contest  
**April 11:** CDM Practice  
**April 11:** Ingram Baby Shower  
**April 12:** D8 Rifle & Light Rifle Entry Deadline  
**April 15:** TX 4-H Ambassador Deadline  
**April 15:** D8 Fashion Show & D2D Contest, Cleburne  
**April 15:** Deadline to validate a horse for \$15  
**April 16:** Horse Validation Increases to \$20  
**April 20:** District 8 Livestock Judging Contest & Meat Judging Contest, College Station  
**April 27:** D8 Rifle & Light Rifle Contest

May 2024

**May 1:** Last day to validate horses  
**May 7:** MAB Meeting  
**May 16:** Club Manager Connection  
**May 24:** Surge Deadline  
**May 24:** D8 Council Officer Application Deadline

TEXAS A&M  
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EXTENSION

BELL COUNTY  
4-H NEWSLETTER

Bell County Extension  
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Belton, TX 76513  
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Everything will be posted on the Bell County 4-H website

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