

# April 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

### **VACANT**

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



Tractor Supply Spring Clover Sales begin **Wed Apr 24 - Sun May 5** . We are looking for 4-H members to man the Temple, Belton, and Killeen stores anytime during their regular business hours. Proceeds from the Clover Sales support 4-H at the National, State, and County levels with the County receiving the highest percentage. Please consider supporting our 4-H program by signing up for a few hours during the Spring Clover Sales.



1605 N. Main, Room 102

Belton, TX 76513

Phone: (254) 933-5305

Fax: (254) 933-5312

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



# 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
May 9	Council Officer Elections	Non-Perishable Food Drive

## County Council Meeting

**Date:** May 9, 2024

**Location:** County 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 the 2024-2025 Officer Elections!

The community service project will be a canned food drive.

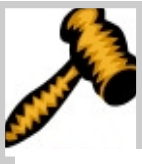
## Non-Perishable Food Drive

The Food Care Center in Killeen helps distribute groceries to people in need. They have been doing this for 37 years and have already surpassed distributing 1,200,000 pounds to over 70,000 people in FY2024. Items will be collected by the Bell County 4-H Council members and can also be dropped off at the CEO. Items recommended to donate are: canned goods (fruit, vegetables, soups, tuna), dry pasta, minute rice, peanut butter, crackers, boxed cereals, granola bars, baby formula and baby food. Please make sure that these items are not expired.

## 2024-2025 County Council Elections and Intent to Run Forms

If you are interested in being a Council Officer for the 2024-2025 4-H year, read the Council Officer Elections Handbook and fill out an Intent to Run Form. The Intent to Run Form is now an online Google Form. <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeG9MJiyLnjJAQhbsqzt5d3ITxtYckJ9RFZLLaFsokbQ38gLw/viewform?usp=sharing>

Complete this form by **April 26, 2024 (NO EXCEPTIONS)** to be eligible to run for an office on Election Day, **May 9, 2024**. All information about the election is posted on the Bell County 4-H Council website.



# County Council & Ambassadors



## 2024-2025 Bell County 4-H Ambassadors Applications

The 4-H Ambassador Program aims to project a clear and accurate image of the Texas and Bell County 4-H Program. They help older youth develop leadership and communication skills, help the public understand the full scope of the 4-H program, and recruit new members from diverse backgrounds. Bell County 4-H Members must meet the following requirements to be considered for selection as a Bell County 4-H Ambassador: Be at least 14 years of age as of August 31st on the year of application. **Submit a complete application, due on June 3, 2024.** A formal interview will be given after all applications have been submitted. Members will be notified for interview times. Interviews will be formal dress.

### RENEWAL OF AMBASSADORS:

Meet all activity requirements and minimum points by the **application deadline, June 3, 2024**, of the current 4-H year to be considered for renewal. (Recordbook is also a requirement and is due **June 3, 2024**)

Please turn in point sheets with renewal application!

For applications go to: <http://agriflife.org/bell4h/4-h-clubs-and-councils/ambassadors/>

# 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:

- 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 Youth Fair—**April 9th**

Capital Farm Credit Scholarship—**April 5th**

District 8 TAE4-HA Scholarship—**May 15th**

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

# Upcoming Events

## Bell County Record Books

**Due:** June 3, 2024 to the CEO

**Where:** CEO by 5pm



If you would like Sheryl to review your recordbook BEFORE the June 2nd FINAL submission date, then please give her your recordbook ASAP. We will trade record books with Williamson counties TBD for those who want to help us judge. We will be judging Williamson County books in Bell County while they judge our books in Williamson County.

District 8 Record Books will be judged on **July 11th** in McLennan County.

## Hunter's Spectacular Meeting

We will be having a 24 Hunter's Spectacular Wrap/25 Planning meeting on **Tuesday, April 23rd** at the CEO. Please bring your ideas and suggestions!

## Ag Product Id

The last Ag Product ID practice will be held on **Thursday, April 5th** ahead of the Leon County Ag Product ID contest. Practice will be at 6:00 pm at the CEO

**If you are interested in the Leon County contest (April 12th), please contact Michael Canales at 254-541-6293 or [guajeman1@gmail.com](mailto:guajeman1@gmail.com).**

## 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.

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.

# Upcoming Events

## Clover Kids

**2024**

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)

## 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 deadline has already passed. Be checking your email for your presentation time! Contest will take place at the Bell County Extension Office on **Tuesday, April 9, 2024**

**The District 8 Contest will take place on Saturday, May 4, 2024 in West, TX.**

For a description of what could possibly fit under each category, go to Bell County 4-H Roundup Website: <http://>



# FCH Project News



## 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. Practices start at 7:00 p.m. at the County Extension Office.

**April: 4, 11**

District 8 CDM contest is April 15. The deadline has passed to sign up for the District contest.

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.

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/>

## 4-H FCH Coalition Meeting

Monday, May 6, 2024

6:00 pm at the CEO

# Photography Events

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 the JMP 2 workshop.

**WORKSHOP – Solar Eclipse WORKSHOP: April 7, 2024**

**Who:** Workshop – Photography Ambassadors only.

**What:** Ambassadors -learn the science of the eclipse and how to photograph it

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

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

**RSVP:** <https://tinyurl.com/SignupEclipseWorkshop>

**AMBASSADOR LEADERS:** Addie Ruth Moore & Elizabeth Hall

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

**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://tinyurl.com/SignupEclipse>

**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://tinyurl.com/SignupBluebonnet>

**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://tinyurl.com/SignupCottonGin>

**AMBASSADOR LEADER:** Addie Ruth Moore & 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)

**DUE DATE - Texas 4-H Photography NEW Ambassador Applications: April 30, 2024.** Open **ONLY** to certified JMP 4-Hers. Link was provided after the JMP workshop.



# 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 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.

## Bell County Youth Fair Operations Meetings

Meetings will be held at the Bell County Extension Office and will start promptly at 6:00 pm. Any member wanting to address the board must email [Cheri.Obraden@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Cheri.Obraden@ag.tamu.edu) for placement on the agenda no less than 3 days before the meeting

**April 11th**—General Rule Changes/Suggestions, Auction, Judges Committee

**April 18th**—Sheep, Goats, Rabbits, Poultry

**April 25th**—Cattle, Swine, FCS

**May 2nd**—Horses, Commercial Steer/Heifer, Ag Mechanics

**May 9th**—Livestock Judging, Ag Product Id, Vet Science Skillathon, Final Changes





# 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 **Monday, 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.**

## District 8 4-H Horse Show

**Date:** June 18-19, 2024

**Location:** Cadence Bank Center (Bell County Expo)

**Entry Deadline:** May 24, 2024 on 4-H Online

Only properly validated horses can enter. Waiver forms will not be mailed. The form will be signed, scanned as a pdf, and uploaded online. Coggins papers must be scanned and uploaded to 4-H Connect during the entry process.

Stalls are available at an estimated \$20.00 per night on a first-come first-serve basis. **Stall fees will be paid to the Expo Center staff at time of arrival. Stalls will not be available on Sunday. Stalls will be available starting at 6:00 a.m. through 10:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 18, 2024. Shavings will be at the exhibitors cost.**



# 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\*



# Leadership Opportunities



## 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.

## Texas 4-H Water Ambassador

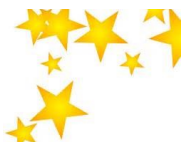
The Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors Program provides high school youth an opportunity to gain advanced knowledge and develop leadership skills related to the science, technology, engineering, and management of water in Texas. By connecting with water professionals, water ambassadors gain exposure and recognition as youth leaders, learn about scholarship and internship opportunities, and explore the diverse career paths in the water industry. The program is led by Texas 4-H and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and supported by water industry sponsors through the Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation.

Each year, up to (30) individuals are selected to join the Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors Program. Those selected participate in a summer 4-H2O Leadership Academy. Over the next (12) months, ambassadors commit to provide a minimum of (40) hours of service.

Applicant must be 14 years of age or older by September 1, 2024, and be entering the 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grades for the 2024-2025 school year. Applicants do not have to be a current member of Texas 4-H but must agree to become a 4-H member (\$30 annual membership fee) if selected before participating in any activity of the Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors Program, including the Tier I 4-H2O Leadership Academy.

- Applications are accepted March 15 through **May 1, 2024**.
- Applicants are notified of their acceptance by May 10, 2024. Further instructions and tentative itinerary for the summer 4-H2O Leadership Academy are provided at that time.
- Applicants must be a member of Texas 4-H and pay the \$300 participation fee in 4-HOnline by June 1, 2024. Payment details are provided to selected students.
  - Academy dates are June 9 – June 15, 2024. Student drop-off in San Marcos, pickup in Waco.

Visit [www.texas4hwaterambassadors.com/application](http://www.texas4hwaterambassadors.com/application) for more details.



# Awards

## ADULT LEADER AWARDS

Bell County 4-H volunteer leaders and Bell County 4-H County Council will solicit nominations and vote to select two individuals to be recognized at the Annual 4-H Banquet for “Distinguished Service.” One will be chosen by the MAB and one chosen by 4-H members. 4-H volunteer leaders who are chosen for this award include outstanding club managers, leaders, project leaders, workshop leaders and volunteer leaders who go above and beyond their leader capabilities.

**OUTSTANDING LEADER AWARD-** The Outstanding Leader Award chosen from the 4-H member requires an essay no longer than 1 page. **The ESSAYS ARE DUE June 3, 2024!** The essay should include the following:

Name of Person Making Nomination

Leader Nominated

Date

Why do you think this leader is an outstanding leader?

What does this leader do that is outstanding?

How has this leader helped you?

How has this leader helped others?

Nominations should be emailed to Sheryl.Long@ag.tamu.edu

## Bell County 4-H Awards

All 4-H members applying for awards (Gold, Silver or Bronze Star; Rookie, Honor Roll, All-Star Letterman; Danforth, Senior Awards, Outstanding Community Service) must submit the appropriate paperwork and applications by **June 3, 2024**. Record books for county competition will be due on **June 3, 2024**.

**Awards age based on 4-H Grade as of August 31, 2023**

Graduating seniors for the 2024 year, who are members of 4-H, may apply to receive a Senior Award, to be presented at the Bell County 4-H Awards Banquet. Seniors must have been active and meet the requirements listed on the application.

Other descriptions and awards information is available on the Bell County 4-H Website by going to:

<http://agrilife.org/bell4h/4-h-activities/4-h-awards/>

## 4-H Award Interviews

**When:** TBD in June    **Where:** CEO

We will schedule interview times for those members that applied to receive an award. Interviews will take place before 5:00 pm.



# 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.

Deadline is **May 24, 2024!**

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

## Texas 4-H Conference Center Summer Camps @ Brownwood

Horizons Camp	June 3-July 4	Early Bird \$375, \$425 After April 15
Prime Time I	July 7-10	Early Bird \$300, \$350 After April 15
Aperture Camp	July 7-10	Early Bird \$300, \$350 After April 15
County Camp I	July 14-18	Early Bird \$375, \$425 After April 15
Prime Time II	July 21-24	Early Bird \$300, \$350 After April 15
County Camp II	August 4-8	Early Bird \$375, \$425 After April 15

To register, go to [Texas4Hcenter.tamu.edu](http://Texas4Hcenter.tamu.edu) website "Camps" page and click on REGISTER NOW button.

- 3rd Grade and up
- All camp enrollment based on grade in 2023-2024 school year
- 4-H membership is NOT required
- All adult volunteers must enroll as a 4-H volunteer, have verified background check, and complete child protection training in 4-H Connect prior to camp.

**The Bell County 4-H program WILL NOT be providing chaperones for any of the camps listed above. If your child wants to attend camp, either the parent or another approved 4-H volunteer must attend with the child.**

# Important Dates

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 5:** Capital Farm Credit Scholarship

**April 6:** District 8 Horse Judging, College Station

**April 8:** CEO CLOSED, County Holiday

**April 9:** Bell County Youth Fair Scholarship Deadline

**April 9:** Bell County 4-H Round Up & Talent Showcase Contest

**April 11:** CDM Practice

**April 11:** BCYF Meeting

**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 18:** BCYF Meeting

**April 19:** Ingram Baby Shower

**April 20:** Clover Kids Meeting

**April 20:** District 8 Livestock Judging Contest & Meat Judging Contest, College Station

**April 23:** Hunter's Spectacular Meeting

**April 25:** BCYF Meeting

**April 27:** D8 Rifle & Light Rifle Contest

May 2024

**May 1:** Last day to validate horses

**May 1:** Texas 4-H Water Ambassador Deadline

**May 2:** BCYF Meeting

**May 3:** Texas 4-H Calf Roping School Deadline

**May 4:** D8 4-H Round Up and Talent Showcase Contest

**May 6:** 4-H FCH Coalition Meeting

**May 7:** MAB Meeting

**May 9:** County Council Meeting & Officer Elections

**May 9:** BCYF Meeting

**May 15:** D8 TAE4-HYDP Scholarship Due

**May 16:** Club Manager Connection

**May 24:** Surge Deadline

**May 24:** D8 Council Officer Application Deadline

**May 24:** D8 4-H Horse Show Entry Deadline

June 2024

**June 3:** Bell Co 4-H Ambassador Applications Due

**June 3:** Adult Leader Award Deadline

**June 3:** Bell County 4-H Awards Due

**June 18-19:** D8 4-H Horse Show

**June 24-27:** D8 Surge, New Braunfels



TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION

BELL COUNTY  
4-H NEWSLETTER

Bell County Extension  
1605 N. Main Room 102  
Belton, TX 76513  
Phone: 254-933-5305  
Fax: 254-933-5312

*Shel Long*



Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

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

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