

May 2024 Focus

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The Bell 4H Horse Club has been very busy in our community! Audra Peters, Izzy Sneed, Hartley Jo Clayton, & Hazley Clayton presented our colors for the National Anthem at the 3rd Annual Schoepf's Bulls & BBQ at the Cadence Bank Center! They did an amazing job and represented our Bell County 4-H proudly! (Pictures by Becca Bachtel Photography)

The Bell 4H Horse Club Drill Team, The Belles, are getting ready to perform and present colors at the Annual 3C Cowboy Fellowship CPRA/UPRA Rodeo. They will be in action at the Saturday, May 18th, performance! The rodeo starts at 7:30 pm. Come out and support these kiddos!

The Bell 4H Horse Club Drill Teams, The Belles & The Stars, competed at the Central Texas Drills Teams of Texas in Bryan College Station this month. Both teams did amazing and our community should be so proud of them! The Belles placed 2nd in the OPEN FREESTYLE-A Division & 5th in the OPEN THEME-A Division. They competed against tough all adult teams and held their own in the competition! The Stars placed 1st in the YOUTH THEME & 3rd in the YOUTH FREESTYLE! They had such good performances and we can't wait to see what these teams do the remainder of the year! They are headed to the Drill Teams of Texas Finals in June in Athens, TX!



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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
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

Council Officer Election process will consist of 3 parts:

1. 2 minute speech in front of voting delegates
2. Vote by voting delegates
3. 5 minute interview in front of panel of judges



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 8, 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](#)

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.

Clover Kids 2024

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

Ag Product Id

Registration for the 2024 Texas 4-H Roundup is now open. Roundup will be held from June 3—6, 2024, on the Texas A&M University campus. An invitational Ag Product ID contest will be held on Tuesday, June 4, 2024. This contest will only be open to active Senior level members. The last day to register through 4hOnline will be May 9, 2024. If any senior level members are interested in participating, please contact Michael Canales at guajeman1@gmail.com or 254-541-6293 as soon as possible.



FCH Project News



4-H FCH Coalition Meeting

Monday, May 6, 2024

6:00 pm at the CEO

We will be finalizing our plans for the summer workshops!

Texas 4-H Round Up

Texas 4-H Round Up

Monday, June 3 – Thursday, June 6, 2024, College Station, TX

SENIOR aged 4-H members! We need you to enter the Texas 4-H Round Up ASAP! You must register your child and yourself by **May 9, 2024**. **We will not register for you!** Registration takes place on 4-H Connect at v2.4honline.com. Make sure you communicate with any of your team members and myself on whether or not your qualified team wants to participate at state.

May 9: Bell County 4-H Deadline to register!

- YOUTH All Inclusive: \$120.00
- YOUTH Day Pass: \$50 (access to contest, workshops, Trade Show and pre-post Assembly events that SINGLE CONTEST DAY ONLY)
- ADULT volunteer (All Inclusive -\$75 or by day at \$30)
- YOUTH – Junior/Intermediate Guests (\$40 week or \$15/day). This is meant for providing credentials for siblings/employee children who will be in attendance
- CLOVER KIDS (2nd grade and under will be provided a Complimentary Nametag. Be sure and pick up at registration upon arrival). This is meant for providing credentials for siblings/employee children who will be in attendance

FORMS REQUIRED AT TIME OF REGISTRATION:

Forms required to be uploaded by all to 4HOnline with Registration. **Required for both Youth and Adults. Forms MUST be signed and dated, or they will be returned delaying the registration process.**

*****PLEASE CHECK THAT THE RIGHT FORM IS UPLOADED. THEY MUST BE FILLED OUT WITH ALL INFORMATION, DATED AND SIGNED*****

- * 2024 Waiver, Indemnification Form
- * 2024 Media Release
- * Commemorative t-shirts will be on sale through a separate online system. T-shirts are not able to be purchased with registration on 4HOnline.
- * Parking passes must be purchased online direct from transportation services. <https://transport.tamu.edu/Parking/Events/annual.aspx>
- * THANK YOU NOTES All Texas 4-H Roundup contestants are encouraged to bring thank you notes with them for their contest and general Roundup sponsors. All thank you notes will be turned in prior to their competition. All thank you notes should be thanking the donor(s) for their continued support of the respective contest or Texas 4-H Roundup event.

Call or e-mail Sheryl Long with any questions.



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 for placement on the agenda no less than 3 days before the meeting

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

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

2025 Bell County Youth Fair & Major Livestock Show Turkeys

Order Deadline: May 31, 2024

Cost: \$4.75 per bird; min order of 5, max of 75 birds per family unit/exhibitor

Turkeys will be straight-run (toms and hens randomly mixed).

Each exhibitor may order an individual set of birds OR siblings within the same household may order and share a set of birds. Major show birds may also be used for the county show.

Estimated pick up is November.



Livestock Project News



June Livestock Validation Tag Order Information & Changes for 2024

Steer & Heifer Validation: Monday, June 24 from 7:00–10:00 AM & 4:00–6:00 PM at the Bell County EXPO, Garth Arena

REGISTERED HEIFERS: All state validated heifers will be tagged similar to steers. 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) or Ag Teacher by **June 30, 2024**.

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.

State Fair of Texas & Heart O' Texas Fair Swine Validation: By appointment at the exhibitor or school barn

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) or Ag Teacher by June 30, 2024.

State Fair of Texas Sheep & Goat Validation: Thursday, June 15th from 8:30 AM–5:00 PM at the Extension Office

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) by June 30, 2024.

If you are still in need of validation tags, please contact the CEO prior to validation.

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 Monday. 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.**

Contact Sheryl if you have any questions.

<http://agrillife.org/d84h/events-and-activities/horse-show/>



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:

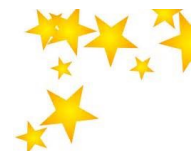
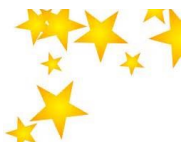
Must have attended a prior District 4-H SURGE (Leadership Lab).

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 31st**, 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 1st Vice Chair, they must also fill out the Texas 4-H Contract.



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: June 11, 2024

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 24-27th, 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 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 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

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 8: MAB Meeting
May 9: Texas 4-H Round Up Entry Deadline
May 9: County Council Meeting & Officer Elections
May 9: BCYF Meeting
May 15: D8 TAE4-HYDP Scholarship Due
May 16: Club Manager Connection
May 18: Clover Kid Meeting
May 24: Surge Deadline
May 24: D8 Council Officer Application Deadline
May 24: D8 4-H Horse Show Entry Deadline
May 27: County Holiday, Office Closed
May 31: BCYF & Major Show Turkey Orders Due

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 3: 4-H Recordbooks due
June 3-6: Texas 4-H Round Up, College Station
June 11: 4-H Awards Interviews
June 17: State Fair Lamb & Goat Validation @ CEO
June 18-19: D8 4-H Horse Show
June 19: County Holiday, Office Closed
June 24: BCYF & Major Show Steer & Heifer Validation
June 24-27: D8 Surge, New Braunfels

July 2024

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

BELL COUNTY
4-H NEWSLETTER

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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/>