

June 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

Congratulations Newly Elected 2024-2025

Bell County Council Officers!

President— James Steglich

1st Vice— Victoria Canales

2nd Vice— Jennifer Hoelscher

Secretary—Colton Payne

Treasurer—Ava Canales

Reporter—Avery Payne

Parliamentarian— Caroline Wood

Public Relations— Hartley Clayton

Congratulations to the Texas 4-H Foundation Scholarship

Recipients!

Jackson Bragg

Coen Hefley

Congratulations to the Bell County 4-H Scholarship

Recipients!

Jackson Bragg

Emma Canales

Jordan Candelas

Kaylee Eaton

John Thomas Gauntt

Coen Hefley

Rebekah Sutton

**Good luck to all of our
members competing at
Texas 4-H Round Up
in June!**



1605 N. Main, Room 102

Belton, TX 76513

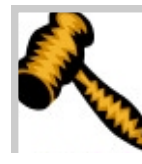
Phone: (254) 933-5305

Fax: (254) 933-5312

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



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://agrilife.org/bell4h/4-h-clubs-and-councils/ambassadors/>

County Council Officer Training

The Mandatory County Council Officer Training will take place sometime this summer! This will be at the Bell CEO from 9:00 am—11:00 am. Bring your calendar and community service ideas. There is not a good date that works for everyone so check your email and complete the google poll!

Bell County Ambassador Training

The Mandatory Bell County 4-H Ambassador Training will take place sometime this summer. There is not a good date that works for everyone so check your email and complete the google doc!

4-H Club Managers & Volunteers

4-H Club Chartering

Deadline: June 14, 2024

Club Managers will be submitting their club information either on 4-H Online or to Sheryl. You should have received an e-mail from Sheryl with the Charter Packet attached. Please don't hesitate to ask questions if you need help.

Membership Advisory Board FINANCE Meeting

When: August 21, 2024

Where: CEO

Time: 5:15 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.

Membership Advisory Board Meeting

When: August 21, 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:

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

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

Check out the 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 3rd 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

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

Bell County 4-H Exchange

Bell County 4-H Exchange will be hosting 4-H members and adult leaders from York County, Pennsylvania June 30th – July 6th. The purpose of the 4-H Exchange program is to give 4-H members the opportunity to experience new and different cultures, 4-H programs in different states, and to learn about agriculture and history from other areas of the United States of America. While hosting York County 4-H members we will be traveling to farms, ranches, museums, and so much more.

Bell County 4-H Awards Banquet

When: August 10, 2024

Where: Cadence Bank Center, Special Events Room

Theme: Growing Tomorrow's Leaders

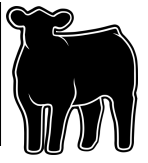
Time: 11:00 am

The annual 4-H Banquet is set for **Saturday, August 10, 2024** at the Cadence Bank Center, Special Events Room. We will need pictures for the General 4-H slides show. Please send any pictures from your club activities or 4-H contests to Sheryl.Long@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/>

District 8 4-H Horse Show

Date: June 18-19, 2024 **Location:** Cadence Bank Center, ELC Arena

Stalls are available on a first-come first-serve basis. **Stall fees will be paid to the Expo Center staff at time of arrival. Stalls will be available starting at 6:00 a.m. on Tuesday, through 10:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 19, 2024.** RV spots available on a first come, first serve basis.

Good luck to our exhibitors!

Bell-Milam Youth Agribusiness Tour

Save the date Wednesday, July 24th for the 2024 Bell-Milam Youth Agribusiness Tour! This will be the 7th year of our annual tour sponsored by Capital Farm Credit! Each of the stops will feature a facet of agricultural production and business. Youth will have the opportunity to connect with local producers and see the impact of agriculture in our communities. The 2024 tour stops have yet to be released. Online sign up will be available June 10, 2024. The link will be released in the weekly 4-H email blast that goes out every Monday. To sign up for the tour, participants must be a member of Bell or Milam County 4-H and in 6th - 12th grade. The first ten applicants from each county will be accepted. Youth must have an interest in agriculture.

If you would like more information about this tour, please email Floyd.Ingram@ag.tamu.edu to be added to the mailing list!

4-H Horse Club

The Bell 4H Horse Club in PLANNING MODE for the upcoming year! We have TONS of horse events in the works so if you are a HORSE LOVING kiddo, get ready to sign up with our CLUB so that you can participate in our events! Trainings, ride days & nights, educational classes, and so much more! We'd love to have you!

The Bell 4H Horse Club Drill team is headed to FINALS! They will be traveling to Athens, Texas, in late June to compete at the Equestrian Drill Teams of Texas Finals. Please wish them luck and safe travels! For travel expenses, they are currently doing a fundraiser for your chance to win a SUMMERTIME YETI COOLER! It's all the summer items you and your family could need to stay cool this summer! If you are interested in purchasing tickets to support this great team, please reach out to Bell4HHorseClub@gmail.com or text to 254-931-1635 for ticket information! We appreciate any support!

SUMMERTIME COOLER RAFFLE **BELL 4 H HORSE CLUB EQUESTRIAN DRILL TEAM**

HELP US RAISE MONEY TO HELP COVER SOME OF OUR EXPENSES FOR OUR TRAVELS TO STATE & DRILL TEAM FINALS! WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!

Win! RED YETI ROADIE 24 FILLED WITH THE BEST SUMMERTIME ITEMS! WAGON, POOL, YETI CUPS, VISA GIFT CARD, CANOPY, GAMES, LOTTO TICKETS, TYPHOON WATERPARK TICKETS & SO MUCH MORE!

Enter to win

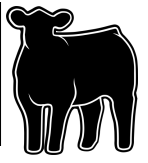
DRAWING WILL BE ON JULY 4TH

RAFFLE RAFFLE

1 TICKET-\$10
3 TICKETS-\$25
6 TICKETS-\$50
12 TICKETS-\$100
CASH, CHECK, OR VENMO



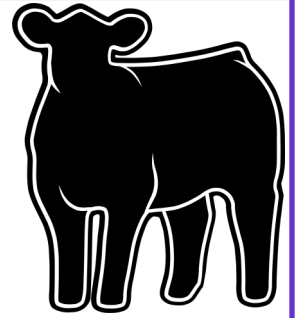
Livestock Project News



Steer & Heifer Validation

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

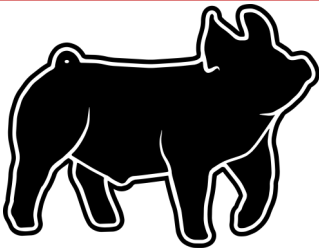
REGISTERED HEIFERS: The deadline for ownership, transfer, and registration for Registered Breeding Heifers is June 30, 2024. **A color, PDF copy of the original registration papers should be emailed to your County Extension Agent (Floyd.Ingram@ag.tamu.edu) or Ag Teacher by June 30, 2024.**



All state validated heifers will be tagged similar to steers. This will bring our heifer validation program in line with breeding sheep, breeding goats, and breeding gilts.

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.

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



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.**

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

State Fair of Texas Sheep & Goat Validation

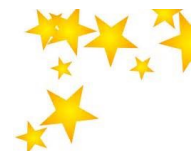
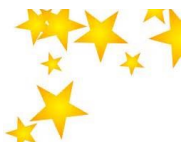
Thursday, June 17th from 8:30 AM–5:00 PM at the Extension Office

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.



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.

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



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://agriflife.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)

For those members that have registered for this camp, we will be traveling to camp in a rental suburban!

Tentative Travel Schedule:

June 24—Meet at the CEO between 10:45-11:00 am
Eat lunch in New Braunfels, arrive at camp by 2:00 pm (ish)

June 26—Schlitterbahn day!

June 27—Depart from camp around 11:00 am. Return to CEO no later than 2:00 pm.

I expect all participants to be on their best behavior and represent Bell County 4-H well. You WILL respect all adults and follow all dress code requirements.

The 4-H Dress Code will be in effect:

- * Items not allowed: tops with spaghetti straps, halter type tops, shirts that reveal the midriff, excessively loose-fitting pants or jeans, short shorts or skirts, clothing advertising or referencing alcohol, drugs, violence or having sexual content.
- * Two-piece swimsuits are allowed but should adequately cover all body parts.
- * Campers will be given 1 warning about dress code violations and will then be provided an opportunity to change or have their parent retrieve them from camp.
- * We will participate in an Etiquette Dinner, as well as a more formal evening. For this evening, we encourage you to dress the part. Sunday best is preferred.

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.



Summer Fun Activities



~Summer Workshop Guidelines~

- Registration open to 4-H members
- Please make sure the participants arrive on time
- Participants must be picked up promptly at the conclusion of the workshop
 - Please adhere to RSVP deadlines
- Cell phones will be prohibited, participants will be able to check their phones on breaks and at the conclusion of the program.

Food Workshops

4-H Food Challenge Camp

When: July 22 & 29

Where: Bell CEO

Time: 1:00—4:00 pm

Learn about cooking safety, knife safety, kinds of cuts, food nutrients, preparing dishes, how to read nutrition labels, and more!

Email your RSVP by July 15th to Jennifer.Thompson@ag.tamu.edu

CLOVER KID Cupcake Storytelling Workshop

When: July 27

Where: Bell CEO

Time: 10:00 am—12:00 pm

Using cupcake decorating, the students will learn about elements of writing!

Email your RSVP by July 19th to Jennifer.Thompson@ag.tamu.edu

Cupcake Storytelling Workshop

When: August 12

Where: Bell CEO

Time: 1:00—3:00 pm

Using cupcake decorating, the students will learn about elements of writing!

Email your RSVP by August 5th to Jennifer.Thompson@ag.tamu.edu

Summer Sewing Series

Potholder Workshop

When: June 14

Where: Bell CEO Meeting Room

Time: 9:00 am—12:00 pm

What to Bring: 1 yard of fabric AND coordinating thread

A parent MUST be present for all 8-10 year old participants.

Email your RSVP by June 10th to Jennifer.Thompson@ag.tamu.edu.

Summer Sewing Series

Simple Pillow Workshop

When: June 14

Where: Bell CEO Meeting Room

Time: 1:30—4:00 pm

What to Bring: Two 1/2 yards of coordinating fabrics AND coordinating thread

A parent MUST be present for all 8-10 year old participants.

Email your RSVP by June 10th to Jennifer.Thompson@ag.tamu.edu.

Hat Workshop

When: June 21

Where: Bell CEO

Time: 10:00 am—3:00 pm

What to Bring: 1 yard canvas or duck fabric AND coordinating thread

Bring your own lunch.

Open to Intermediates (grades 6-8) and Seniors (grades 9-12) ONLY

Email your RSVP by June 14th to Jennifer.Thompson@ag.tamu.edu.

Quilting Workshop

When: June 24 & 25

Where: Bell CEO

Time: 9:00 am—12:00 pm both days

Learn all the basics of quilting. We must know the age of participant and the skill level. Sewing machines will be provided but feel free to bring your own if you prefer.

Email your RSVP by June 17th to Jennifer.Thompson@ag.tamu.edu.

Skirts 4 Girls & Shorts 4 Boys Workshop

When: June 28 & 29

Where: Bell CEO

Time: 10:00 am—3:00 pm both days

What to Bring: 2 1/2 yards of fabric AND coordinating thread AND your favorite pair of jeans

Bring your own lunch both days.

Open to Intermediates (grades 6-8) and Seniors (grades 9-12) ONLY

Email your RSVP by June 21st to Jennifer.Thompson@ag.tamu.edu.

Apron Workshop

When: July 19

Where: Bell CEO

Time: 10:00 am—3:00 pm

What to Bring: 1 yard of fabric AND coordinating thread

Bring your own lunch.

A parent MUST be present for all 8-10 year old participants.

Email your RSVP by July 12th to Jennifer.Thompson@ag.tamu.edu.

Decoupage Box Workshop

When: August 3

Where: Bell CEO

Time: 10:00 am—4:00 pm

What to Bring: Appropriate themed items (wrapping paper, decorated napkins, newspaper, tissue paper, and lightweight paper)

Open to SENIORS ONLY. Lunch will be provided.

Email your RSVP by July 26th to Jennifer.Thompson@ag.tamu.edu.

Important Dates

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 14: Potholder Workshop
June 14: Simple Pillow Workshop
June 14: 4-H Club Charter Deadline
June 15: Clover Kids Summer Camp
June 17: State Fair Lamb & Goat Validation @ CEO
June 18-19: D8 4-H Horse Show
June 19: County Holiday, Office Closed
June 21: Hat Workshop
June 24: BCYF & Major Show Steer & Heifer Validation
June 24: Quilting Workshop
June 25: Quilting Workshop
June 24-27: D8 Surge, New Braunfels
June 28: Skirts & Shorts Workshop
June 29: Skirts & Shorts Workshop
June 30: Heifer papers due to Floyd Ingram
June 30: Gilt papers due to Sheryl Long
June 30: Breeding Sheep/Goat papers due to Sheryl Long

July 2024

July 12: Clover Kids Recordbooks Due to CEO
July 19: Apron Workshop
July 22: 4-H Food Challenge Camp
July 24: Bell-Milam Youth Ag Tour
July 27: Clover Kid Cupcake Storytelling Workshop
July 29: 4-H Food Challenge Camp
July 31: 4-H Awards Banquet RSVP Deadline

August 2024

August 3: Decoupage Box Workshop
August 10: Bell County 4-H Awards Banquet
August 12: Cupcake Storytelling Workshop
August 21: MAB Finance Meeting
August 21: MAB Meeting

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/>