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Hunter's Spectacular

SAVE THE DATE!

The Bell County 4-H fundraiser
will take place **Saturday, October
19, 2024!** More information
inside the newsletter!



The new 4-H Year starts
on August 15th! This means you
can start re-enrolling your
family on 4-H Connect. **NEW**
families need to wait until
September 1st.

More details inside
this newsletter on enrollment.

Open House

September 10, 2024

5:00-7:00 pm

Cadence Bank Center

Assembly Hall

Sign up at [https://forms.gle/
sFZTxE4rq4mq4YQh6](https://forms.gle/sFZTxE4rq4mq4YQh6) if you want
to have a booth at this event!



1605 N. Main, Room 102

Belton, TX 76513

Phone: (254) 933-5305

Fax: (254) 933-5312

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

4-H Enrollment

4-H Enrollment starts **August 15th**! All enrollments are done via 4HOnline. You can access 4HOnline by going to our 4-H website at <http://agrillife.org/bell4h/> and clicking on the 4HOnline icon. V2.4honline.com.

A youth that is 8 years old and going into the 3rd grade must wait until September 1st to enroll for correct fees to be charged.

To maintain the level of programming and opportunities in the Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program, an annual participant fee is implemented for each 4-H member (excluding Clover Kids). The participant fee is \$25 if enrolled from **August 15th to October 31st**, November 1st the participant fee will increase to \$30. **Please do not worry if you are still pending at the county level once you have enrolled.** The county office will try to keep up as best as we can by approving them at least once a week. As long as you complete your enrollment, you are in the system and good for enrollment and BCYF requirements. Enrollment dues must be paid by an electronic payment.

For instructions on how to enroll, please visit:

<http://agrillife.org/bell4h/4-h-enrollment-guidelines/4-h-enrollment-information/>

All volunteers who enroll will be charged \$10.00. This covers your screening for the year. All volunteers will have to re-enroll each year. Club Managers must enroll ASAP!

If you have further questions, please contact the County Extension Office at: 254-933-5305

4-H Age /Grade Requirements

Texas 4-H membership eligibility will be based on SCHOOL GRADE and not age. The eligibility rules and guidelines are:

Youth may participate in 4-H year from September 1st of grade three through August 31st following completion of grade twelve, with these age restrictions:

Minimum age - 8 (as of August 31, 2024 and in the 3rd grade)

Maximum age - 18 (as of August 31, 2024)

4-H Member Categories

Juniors: Grades 3, 4, and 5

Intermediates: Grades 6, 7, and 8

Seniors: Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12



Academic Eligibility & Excused Absences for 4-H Competitions and Activities

Academic eligibility is requested for extracurricular activities by the County Extension Agent and is approved or declined by the member's school. In addition to following this UIL rule, the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program has adopted a school change policy to stay consistent across educational systems. If a youth has a change in school status from public to private or home school, the member must adhere to a three (3) school-week waiting period before he/she is eligible for participating in extracurricular activities.

All 4-H members must be officially enrolled (in an "active" status on 4-H Online) to be considered an official 4-H member. No excused absences can be requested for any youth who is not enrolled in the official 4-H enrollment system (4-H Online). If a member is participating in a 4-H event/competition, please contact the agent advising that project area at least two week in advance of the event to communicate when the child will be missing school. Those forms can be found at <https://agrilife.org/bell4h/4-henrollment-guidelines/eligibility/>.

Hunter Spectacular

Event Details

Drawing for 20 Guns and other large ticket items

*Winners will be drawn on Facebook Live on **Saturday, October 19th starting at 11:00 am**

-Once a ticket is drawn, it will not be put back into the drawing.

*4-H members are expected to sell at least **5** tickets per member.

-\$20 tickets

*Ticket turn-in will be by Club appointment only on:

Tuesday, October 15th through Friday, October 18th

8:00am – 11:00am or 1:00pm – 4:00pm

NEW This Year Sign up times available via a Google Sheet emailed out by Laila Romero

Clubs MUST pay with their 4-H Club check

Handgun Bonus Draw

These tickets will be \$50 per ticket and this drawing is limited to 100 tickets. The Bonus Draw will be sold only by Bell County 4-H Ambassadors.

*Each club is expected to donate \$100 to purchase the handgun for the Bonus Draw.

*Deadline for \$100 donation – September 27, 2024

*Bell County 4-H Ambassadors are expected to sell at least **5** tickets to the Bonus Draw before selling tickets for the main Hunter Spectacular drawing.

Each club needs to recruit at least one \$200 sponsor for this event. Feel free to get more!

4-H Club Incentives

We want to continue to incentivize member participation. In that effort, each Club that meets the 3 requirements listed below will earn a 10% kickback.

1. 100% ticket sales based on enrollment from last year based on each member selling 3 tickets.
2. Donate \$100 to the Bonus Draw side raffle.
3. Recruit at least one \$200 event sponsor

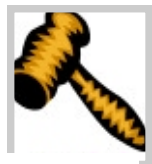
For example: if your club is given 100 tickets to sell based on last year's membership, you will receive the 10% kickback if you sell those 100 tickets, recruit at least one \$200 event sponsor, and donate \$100 to the Bonus Draw side raffle.

4-H Member Incentives

The 4-H member with the highest number of ticket sales, will get \$100 cash! This does not include tickets sales from the Bonus Draw (Ambassadors only). Make sure to complete the "sold by" portion on your tickets to get credit! Club Managers will have to keep track of this and share with the Extension Office on their club's highest seller and the number of tickets they sold.



County Council & Ambassadors



County Council Meeting Dates

Dates and programs have been set for 2024-2025 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
September 18	Club Officer Training	Animal Shelter Donations
November 13	Bell County Youth Fair	Children's Hospital Toy Drive
January 16	Photography	Hope Pregnancy Center Donations
March 27	Safe Place	Safe Place Donations
May 8	Council Officer Elections	Non-Perishable Food Drive

Animal Shelter Donations

The Bell County Animal Shelter helps promote general animal welfare through the management of stray animals. Each year the shelter takes in and cares for hundreds of animals. The shelter depends on generous community donations of food and supplies to function. Items needed by the shelter are being collected through the month of January by the Bell County 4-H Council and can be dropped off at the CEO.

The shelter also maintains an Amazon wish list that allows you to order directly from Amazon and ship directly to the shelter. This wish list is available at https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/23F3L3B9XFC3F?ref=wl_share&fbclid=IwAR0GXNVUEPPmsonoH3evKR55vEl6du3IfCeRNq8Xefui4oTZi623SQeuZnY

Items needed include:

- | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Clorox bleach | Paper Towels | Exam Gloves | Dawn Dish Detergent | Dog Leashes |
| Purina Dry Cat Chow | Purina Dry Puppy Chow | Purina Dry Kitten Chow | Purina Dry Dog Chow | Purina Dry Large Dog |
| Tidy Cats Litter | Old Towels | Old Blankets | Gain Liquid Laundry Soap | |
| Collars | Cat Toys | Dog Treats | | |

Bell County 4-H Ambassadors for Hunter's Spectacular

The Bell County 4-H Ambassadors will be selling the Bonus Draw tickets for a very nice handgun. These tickets will be \$50 per ticket and this drawing is limited to 100 tickets. **The Bonus Draw will be sold only by Bell County 4-H Ambassadors.** Bell County 4-H Ambassadors are expected to sell at least **5** tickets to the Bonus Draw before selling tickets for the main Hunter Spectacular drawing. You will pick up these tickets from the Bell County Extension Office AND turn in your ticket stubs with payment back into the Extension Office.

4-H Club Managers & Volunteers

Membership Advisory Board Meeting

When: November 12, 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 your officer team and your agent

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

Shooting Sports Coach's Trainings

All registration will be through 4-H Online. You must be a screened and enrolled 4-H volunteer before you can register.

District 9, Beaumont—September 27-28

District 4, New Boston—October 12-13

District 5, Marshall—September 20-21

District 8, Stephenville—November



FCH Project News



FCH Coalition Meeting

When: Monday, September 9th

Where: Bell CEO

Time: 6:00 pm

We will be planning and prepping for the Bell County 4-H Food Show and Food Challenge contest!

Food Challenge Practices

Food Challenge involves teams of 3-4 students that receive a list of ingredients and have 40 minutes to create a dish. The teams then present their dish to judges and scored on preparation, serving size, food safety concerns, and nutritional value. Students qualify at the country and district level to compete at the state contest. Practices will be held at 2:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in downtown Belton as follows:

- **September :** 15, 22, 29
- HOT Contest is October 5
- **October :** 6, 13, 20, 27
- County Contest is TBD, but is normally in October
- **November:** 3, 10, 17, 24
- **December:** 1
- District Contest is December 5

For more information and to RSVP, please contact Barbara Wood at woodbtwice@gmail.com or text 254-624-6507.

FCH Quiz Bowl

Family and Consumer Health Quiz Bowl is a quiz game that tests teams of 4 on their knowledge of basic nutrition, consumer information, food and kitchen safety, food preparation skills and storage, health and fashion and interior design skills. Up against the clock, the 4-H'ers buzz in to answer a question and earn points for correct answers. Teams advance in a tournament-system bracket to win the competition. Practices for this will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the County Extension Office as follows:

- **September:** 12, 19, 26
- **October:** 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
- District Contest is November 7

For more information and to RSVP please contact Barbara Wood at woodbtwice@gmail.com or text 254-624-6507.

Leaders 4 Life

Leaders 4 Life is a competition that allows 4-H youth to demonstrate their knowledge of Parliamentary Procedure through a mock meeting. For questions, contact Barbara Wood at woodbtwice@gmail.com or 254-624-6507. Practices will be held at 6:00 p.m. at the County Extension Office as follows:

- **September:** 17, 24
- **October:** 1, 8, 22, 29
- **November:** 12
- District Contest is November 19

For more information and to RSVP, please contact Barbara Wood at woodbtwice@gmail.com or text 254-624-6507.

Upcoming Events

4-H Open House

The Bell County 4-H Open House is set for **Wednesday, September 10th** at the Cadence Bank Event Center (formerly Bell County Expo Center), Assembly Hall from 5:00-7:00 pm. Want to have a 4-H Club or Project booth? Sign up for a booth here! <https://forms.gle/yKR01UqNvagUxNH19>

We will be serving FREE hotdogs at this event! ALSO, the first 100 participants to complete the 4-H scavenger hunt will receive a FREE Kona Ice snow cone!

More information posted on the Bell County 4-H website.

Ag Product ID

Ag Product ID practices will start up this month. Practices will be at 6:00 pm. at the CEO on the following dates:

September: 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th

Upcoming Contests:

State Fair of Texas

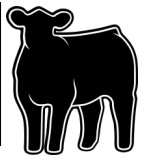
Heart of Texas Fair and Rodeo

District 8 contest

Please contact Michael Canales at 254-541-6293 or guajeman1@gmail.com for more information.



Livestock Project News



2025 Lamb and Goat Validation

Physical validation will be held at the **Bell County EXPO** on the dates listed below:

October 15th and October 22nd from 4:00 – 7:00 pm

Special Notes for Sheep and Goat Validations:

- All lambs and goats validated during the 2024 State Fair Validation period including market animals **WILL BE ELIGIBLE** 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.
- Texas Lamb Breeders Association (TLBA) and Texas Goat Breeders Association (TGBA) tag numbers **MUST** be in the animal's ear to be recorded on the validation form at validation. All lambs and goats planning to go to San Angelo **MUST** have TLBA/TGBA tags in their ear and the number recorded on their validation form.
- If a TLBA/TGBA tag is added to the animal's ear after the State Fair show season, then the animal must be re-validated during the Major Show Validation season in order for the TLBA/TGBA tag number to be properly recorded on the Validation Form and eligible for TLBA/TGBA premiums during the spring show season.
- In 2021, Sheep and Goat Validation of Texas announced the introduction of the Roll-over Breeding Sheep and Breeding Goat program. For example, any **BREEDING** animal validated during the State Fair 2021 validation period is eligible to be exhibited by that exhibitor through the State Fair 2024 show season. If ownership changes, then the animal must be re-validated.
- All sheep and goats are eligible for family validation. Registered sheep and goats can family validate if the registration papers have all exhibitors full names listed as owners. Registration paper ownership will determine the exhibitors eligible to show that project.
- All Market Lambs, Market Goats, Breeding Sheep, Wether Dams, Breeding Goats, and Wether Does will use the same RFID validation tag.

If you have any questions, please contact Sheryl Long at sheryl.long@ag.tamu.edu or (254) 933-5305.

2025 Major Show Broiler Order

Deadline for Bell County 4-H: **Friday, September 6, 2024.**

- Broiler chicks cost \$1.50 each and must be ordered in increments of 25 with a maximum of 75 chicks per exhibitor or family (if multiple exhibitors in a family wish to share an order).
 - San Antonio birds are ordered separately from Houston/Austin birds.
 - Estimated pick up for San Antonio birds is December.
 - Estimated pick up Houston/Austin birds is January.

Order form is available at the Bell County Extension Office or online.

If you have any questions, contact Sheryl Long at sheryl.long@ag.tamu.edu or (254) 933-5305.



Livestock Project News



2025 Major Show Registered Heifer Validation

Physical validation will be held at the **Bell County EXPO** on the dates listed below:

October 21st from 4:00 – 6:00 pm

- Heifers already validated do NOT have to be revalidated or have a tag. Heifers ONLY need to be revalidated if they change breed or ownership.
 - If you have leftover tags from June validation, you may use them this fall.
- Heifers that have existing 840 tags (bangs/premise ID/etc.), tags will not have to be removed. However, these will NOT take the place of a validation 840 tag. In other words, a heifer can have more than one 840 tag in their ear or you can remove previous tags; but regardless, the animal has to have a validation 840 tag. We will have a specific form for you to complete at the time of validation for any previously existing 840 tags that are removed to remain in compliance with TAHC/USDA.
- Please send a PDF copy of the **ORIGINAL** registration papers for the registered heifers you plan to validate to Floyd.Ingram@ag.tamu.edu **PRIOR** to validation

2025 Major Show Swine Validation Tag Orders:

Market Barrows, Registered Breeding Gilts, Crossbred Gilts

DEADLINE: September 20, 2024

COST: \$20/tag

There are two options for exhibitors to submit tag orders:

- o To **order online** and pay by credit card, visit: <https://bell-livestock-coalition.square.site/>
- o To **order in person** and pay with exact cash or check, come by the Extension Office with payment, payable to *Bell Livestock Coalition*.

Physical validation will be held at the **Bell County EXPO** on the dates listed below:

November 18th and November 25th from 4:00 – 7:00 pm

- All Market Barrows, Registered Breeding Gilts, and Crossbred/Commercial Breeding Gilts will use the same RFID validation tag.
 - Registered Gilt papers must be owned on or before November 30, 2024 and they must also be registered (litter registration, bottom left hand corner) on or before November 30, 2024 . There are NO EXCEPTIONS on this! Please send a PDF copy of the **ORIGINAL** registration papers for the registered gilts you plan to validate to Sheryl.Long@ag.tamu.edu **PRIOR** to validation.



Livestock Project News



Texas 4-H Rabbit Extravaganza

Save the date! The Texas 4-H Rabbit Extravaganza will be held at the Bell County Expo on **Saturday, September 14, 2024**. Events include: rabbit show, skill contest, arts and crafts, best dressed bunny and a skill building workshop. **All entries must be submitted through 4HOnline.**

Save the Date for Local Show Opportunities!

Central Texas State Fair: August 31-September 1

On Saturday, we will host our lamb, goat, steer, and heifer jackpot shows.

A flyer with more information is coming soon!

Holiday Classic Clinic and Jackpot Show: November 2-3

This will be the 33rd annual Holiday Classic! Remember, this show is completely FREE for exhibitors and their families. There will be high quality educational clinics, great food, and awesome giveaways as always! If you or your business would like to be a sponsor of this event to help keep it FREE for attendees, please let us know!

Bell 4-H Horse Club ~ Drill Team Try Outs ~

Try out dates:

September 17th at TLRC Arena, Temple
September 24th at 3C Cowboy Church, Salado

Requirements:

- Must be a member of Bell County 4-H AND the Bell 4-H Horse Club
 - Must provide your own horse
 - Must attend try out dates
 - Must be able to attend weekly practices
 - Must have transportation for rider AND horse to event and practices
 - Must be able to travel to drill team competitions around Texas
- Be sure to follow our FaceBook page and website for additional information.

Bell County Youth Fair

February 1-8, 2025

Bell County Youth Fair Eligibility

Club Managers, please make sure you have a sign in sheet at each meeting and announce to all members to sign in before, during, and after the meeting.

- BCYF has a website in which everything will be posted including the new fair book, entry forms, superintendent's names and phone numbers, score sheets, and other information: <http://agrilife.org/bellctyyouthfair/>
- You **MUST** attend 2 meetings to participate in the BCYF. Your name MUST be on the sign in sheets for it to count.
- 2 meetings will be allowed from **August 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024** this year. No meetings will be allowed in January to use for the 2 meeting rule.

Other Important Information

The 2025 Fair Book will be posted soon. Visit the BCYF website at <https://agrilife.org/bellctyyouthfair/> for more information on entries, rules, judges, and more.

Make sure you are giving your Club Manager a good phone number and email to reach you. You will miss important information and deadlines if you don't check your emails!

Important Dates

Commercial Steer Weigh In	September 7, 2024	8:00 AM
Roaster Orders Due	October 11, 2024	5:00 PM
Online Entries Open	October 15, 2024	8:00 AM
Validate Lambs & Goats	October 15 & 22, 2024	4:00 - 7:00 PM
Validate Heifers	October 21, 2024	4:00 - 7:00 PM
Broiler Orders Due	November 1, 2024	5:00 PM
Turkey Pick Up (Tentatively)	TBD	
Commercial Heifer Palpate & Judge	TBD	
Validate Swine	November 18 & 25, 2024	4:00 - 7:00 PM
Online Entry Deadline	December 1, 2024	5:00 PM
Chisholm Trail Christmas Ball	December 7, 2024	
Pick Up Roasters	December 6, 2024	3:30 - 5:30 PM
Commercial Heifer Sale	TBD	Milam County Auction
Photography Upload	TBD	
Pick Up Broilers	January 3, 2025	3:30 - 5:30 PM
Rabbits Validation	TBD	3:00 - 5:00 PM
Weigh Out Commercial Steers	January 27, 2024	8:00 AM
Commercial Steer Recordbooks Due	February 2, 2024	5:00 PM

Bell County Youth Fair

February 1-8, 2025

BCYF Commercial Steer Weigh In

September 7, 2024

8:00 AM

Evan's Ranch, Little-River Academy

Steers will be tagged. It is recommended (not required) that steers weigh at least 650 to 700 pounds at the initial weigh-in. Steers weighing below 1000 pounds at the final weigh-in will have points discounted. This will be the only day for entering steers. Steers being fed for the Commercial Steer Show must be weaned. Nurse cows are not permitted.

BCYF Unregistered Heifer Paperwork Available

COST: \$5 per Heifer due at time of validation

VALIDATION: Monday, October 21, 4:00-7:00 PM, Bell County EXPO

To validate heifers for the BCYF Unregistered division, please request forms from Cheri.OBraden@ag.tamu.edu prior to validation and return completed paperwork at validation. County only tags for unregistered heifers will be purchased on-site for \$5.00 the night of validation.

BCYF Poultry Orders

Roaster orders due **October 11, 2024**

Broiler Orders are due **November 1, 2024**

Order forms are posted on the BCYF website <https://agrillife.org/bellctyouthfair/>. Forms and payment are due to the Bell County Extension Office by 5:00 PM on the respective due dates.

BCYF Entries

Entries will open on **October 15, 2024 at 8:00 AM**. All exhibitors must submit their entries online by **December 1st, 2024 at 5:00 PM**. For more information and to access the entry link, please visit the BCYF website <https://agrillife.org/bellctyouthfair/>.

Save the Date: BCYF Validation Dates

County only tags for sheep, goats, and swine will be purchased on-site for \$5.00 the night of validation.

BCYF/Major Show Sheep and Goat Validation: **October 15 and 22**

BCYF/Major Show Heifer Validation: **October 21**

BCYF/Major Show Swine Validation: **November 18 and 25**

Important Dates

September 2024

September 1: 4-H Enrollment OPENS
September 5: Ag Product Id Practice
September 6: Major Show Broiler Order Deadline
September 7: BCYF Commercial Steer Weigh In
September 9: 4-H FCH Coalition Meeting
September 10: 4-H Open House
September 12: FCH Quiz Bowl Practice
September 12: Ag Product Id Practice
September 12: Club Manager Connection
September 14: Texas 4-H Rabbit Extravaganza
September 15: Food Challenge Practice
September 17: Leader 4 Life Practice
September 17: Drill Team Try Outs
September 18: County Council Meeting
September 19: FCH Quiz Bowl Practice
September 19: Ag Product Id Practice
September 20: Major Show Swine Tag Orders Due
September 22: Food Challenge Practice
September 24: Leader 4 Life Practice
September 26: FCH Quiz Bowl Practice
September 26: Ag Product Id Practice
September 27: HS Handgun \$100 Club Donation Deadline
September 29: Food Challenge Practice

October 2024

October 1: Leader 4 Life Practice
October 3: FCH Quiz Bowl Practice
October 6: Food Challenge Practice
October 8: Leader 4 Life Practice
October 10: FCH Quiz Bowl Practice
October 11: BCYF Roaster Order Due
October 13: Food Challenge Practice
October 15: BCYF Entries OPEN Online
October 15: BCYF & Major Show Lamb & Goat Validation
October 17: FCH Quiz Bowl Practice
October 19: Hunter's Spectacular
October 20: Food Challenge Practice
October 21: BCYF & Major Show Heifer Validation
October 22: BCYF & Major Show Lamb & Goat Validation
October 22: Leader 4 Life Practice
October 24: FCH Quiz Bowl Practice
October 27: Food Challenge Practice
October 29: Leader 4 Life Practice
October 31: FCH Quiz Bowl Practice

November 2024

November 1: BCYF Broiler Order Due
November 2-3: Holiday Classic
November 3: Food Challenge Practice
November 7: D8 Quiz Bowl & Ag Product Id Contest
November 10: Food Challenge Practice
November 12: MAB Meeting
November 12: Leader 4 Life Practice
November 13: County Council Meeting
November 17: Food Challenge Practice
November 18: BCYF & Major Show Swine Validation
November 19: Club Manager Connection
November 19: D8 Leaders 4 Life Contest
November 24: Food Challenge Practice

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/>