

# December 2024 Focus

## Bell County Staff

### **Sheryl Austin**

Cooperative Extension  
Family & Community  
Health

### **Meagan Cline**

County Extension Agent  
Natural Resources

### **Beverly Hodges**

County Extension Agent  
Family & Community  
Health

### **Floyd Ingram**

County Extension Agent  
Agriculture

### **Sheryl Long**

County Extension Agent  
4-H & Youth Development

### **Laila Romero**

4-H Program Assistant

### **Sherry Spence-Purcella**

BLT Extension Agent

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension in Bell County is pleased to announce that County Extension Agent Meagan Cline has been selected as the new Natural Resources Agent for Bell County.

Cline has an extensive background in ranching and livestock production. She was active in the show barn with beef heifers, market lambs and market goats, as well as a participant in horse judging, livestock judging, and public speaking.

Cline attended college at Texas A&M University where she obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science in December of 2021.

While in college, she worked as a veterinarian technician at Texas Equine Hospital under Dr. Cliff Honnas and his team of established equine veterinarians. Upon graduating college, Cline accepted a full-time position as the head veterinarian technician at the 6666 Ranch in Guthrie, Texas where she had the honor of working under Dr. Glenn Blodgett, Dr. Nathan Canaday, and team.

While she loves working with large animals in the vet medicine world, Cline's true passion is taking what she has learned from being raised on ranches, as well as her work experience, and the knowledge gained from earning her college degree and passing that down to younger generations ea-

ger to have a positive impact on the agricultural industry.

Cline is excited to be a part of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, as well as the community of Bell County.

Please help the Bell County office in welcoming County Extension Agent Meagan Cline to Bell County.



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 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
January 16	Photography	Hope Pregnancy Center Donations
March 27	Safe Place	Safe Place Donations
May 8	Council Officer Elections	Non-Perishable Food Drive

## Hope Pregnancy Center Donations

The Hope Pregnancy Center is in need of donations for newborn babies. Items such as: onesie, diapers in newborn or smaller size, bottles, teething, baby toys, and other newborn related items

## Chisolm Trail Christmas Ball

This event will take place on **Saturday, December 7th**, at the Cadence Bank Center. You will wear your official green jacket with black bottoms and COMFORTABLE shoes! You will assist with the live and silent auctions, serve dessert at the dessert bar, and escort attendees to their seat. You will receive more emails from Sheryl Long about this event!  
Be checking your emails for more details!

## Council/Ambassador Christmas Party

The County Council Officer and Ambassador Christmas party is scheduled for **Friday, December 20th** at the CEO. If you would like to participate in the gift exchange, Please bring a \$10.00 and under unisex gift. **NO CHINESE CHRISTMAS GAG GIFTS.** Time is from 1:00 – 3:00 pm.

# 4-H Club Managers & Volunteers

## Membership Advisory Board Meeting

**When:** TBD in January

**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.

## BCYF Container Pick Up

Attention Club Managers! You can start picking up your food containers starting on **January 2nd** at the CEO for your club members that will be competing in the 2025 BCYF Food Division. Our business hours are Monday-Friday 9:00 am –12:00 & 1:00—5:00 pm. This is for Club Managers ONLY!

REMINDER! There will not be a 2nd chance table! Everything must be correct upon arrival!



# Upcoming Events

## District 8 Scholarship Workshop

Save the date! District 8 4-H Specialist, Megan Shaffer, will be hosting one more online scholarship trainings: On December 12th. More information to come! Be checking your email and the Bell County Facebook and website!

## Clover Kids

### 2025

January 18

January 31

February 15

March 15

May 17

May 30

June 21

July 11

TBA

BCYF: Peewee Showmanship

Clover Kids Fair

Deadline to RSVP for Clover Kids Summer Camp

Summer Camp

Deadline to turn in Clover Kid

Record Book to CEO

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 4-H Exchange Fundraiser

The Bell County 4-H Exchange Club is hosting their 11th annual freezer full of meat drawing. Tickets are \$5.

### What you win:

7 cu. ft chest freezer

**Pork:** 10 lbs of pork chops, 10 lbs country style ribs, 10 pounds bacon, 20 lbs sausage, 20 lbs breakfast sausage

**Beef:** 6 ribeye steaks, 2 briskets, 10 sirloin steaks, 50 pounds ground beef

Drawing will be held Friday, February 7th. Need not be present to win.

For tickets, contact [bellcounty4hexchange@gmail.com](mailto:bellcounty4hexchange@gmail.com)

## Ag Product ID

Ag Product ID practices will resume in January ahead of the BCYF contest.

Upcoming contests:

Bell County Youth Fair: February 6, 2025

Houston Livestock Show: March 19, 2025

Rodeo Austin: March 24, 2025

Milam County: TBD

Leon County: TBD

A few spots remain for Houston and Austin. Registration for the BCYF contest will open soon.

Please contact Michael Canales at 254-541-6293 or [guajeman1@gmail.com](mailto:guajeman1@gmail.com) for more information.



# FCH Project News



## 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. For questions, contact Barbara Wood at [woodbtwice@gmail.com](mailto:woodbtwice@gmail.com) or 254-624-6507. The last practice before the District contest will be held at 2:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in downtown Belton on December 1 with the District Contest being held on December 5.

If you are interested in participating in Food Challenge at any of the Major shows, please let Barbara Wood know, but be aware the spaces are very limited. Practice schedules for the Major Shows TBD. The Major shows are as follows:

San Angelo Contest is January 22

San Antonio Contest is February 6

Houston Contest is March 18

For more information and to RSVP, please contact Barbara Wood at [woodbtwice@gmail.com](mailto:woodbtwice@gmail.com) or text 254-624-6507.

## Consumer Decision Making

Consumer Decision Making can involve teams of 3-4 or participants competing alone. Participants will be given 7 minutes to evaluate and rank a set of 4 products for a given consumer's needs. The ranking will be from best to worst. Intermediate and senior participants also learn to provide verbal reasons to their rankings. For questions, contact Barbara Wood at [woodbtwice@gmail.com](mailto:woodbtwice@gmail.com) or 254-624-6507. Practices will be held at 6:00 p.m. at the County Extension Office in Belton as follows:

**December** 5, 12, 19 (Thursdays)

**January** 2, 9, 23, 30 (Thursdays)

**February** 10, 24 (Mondays)

**March** 3, 10, 31 (Mondays)

**April** 7, 14, 28 (Mondays)

District Contest is April 29

Major show contests are (spaces are limited): San Angelo Contest is February 13; San Antonio Contest is February 15

For more information and to RSVP, please contact Barbara Wood at [woodbtwice@gmail.com](mailto:woodbtwice@gmail.com) or text 254-624-6507.

## FCH Coalition Meeting

**When:** Monday, January 13, 2025

**Where:** Bell CEO

**Time:** 6:00 pm

We will be planning and prepping for the Bell County 4-H Fashion Show!

## District 8 Food Show & Food Challenge

**When:** Wednesday, December 5, 2024

**Where:** Cadence Bank Center, Belton

Good luck to our Bell County 4-H members competing in this Event!



# 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 Dog Project Validation

Texas 4-H Dog Show will be held on July 8-10, 2025 at the Hill Country Youth Event Center in Kerrville, Texas. To be eligible for this show, dogs must be validated by January 10, 2025 in 4-H Online. Attached are detailed written instructions. Video instructions are also available at <https://youtu.be/3NzoljK9Pco> if that is more convenient

2025 Texas 4-H Dog Show Rule Book will be posted on <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/dog-care-training/>.

As 4-H members complete their validation, here are some things to keep in mind:

The box that says Breeder is where they list the breed of the dog rather than the breeder. 4-H Online has set options, so we do the best we can to work with those options.

For purebred dogs (they do not have to be registered, just look purebred) you will select the correct Group, then type in the breed of the dog.

For mixed breed dogs you will select the Weight Group of the dog and list the dominant breed along with the word "Mix" or list the two breeds if known. (Example: Border Collie Mix or Mastiff/Great Dane.)

Photos of the left and right side of the dog should be a side view of the whole dog. Get on the dog's level so they do not turn into top views. They should also be clear and light enough we can see all markings and color of the dog. The dog should only be wearing a collar. No sweaters, costumes, rain gear or anything that covers the dog's color and markings.

Dogs MUST be validated each year. If you validated a dog last year, the information and photos will be in the system, but you must still review and SUBMIT to validate for the 2024-2025 4-H year. Please update the photos if the dog has changed significantly since last year.

We do encourage you to validate any dogs that you are eligible to show. Situations may change through the year.



# 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/bellctyouthfair/>
- 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.
- All 4-H members **MUST** be enrolled by **December 10, 2024** to participate in the BCYF.

### Other Important Information

The 2025 Fair Book will be posted soon. Visit the BCYF website at <https://agrilife.org/bellctyouthfair/> 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

<b>Online Entry Deadline</b>	December 1, 2024	5:00 PM
<b>Pick Up Roasters</b>	December 6, 2024	3:30 - 5:30 PM
<b>Chisholm Trail Christmas Ball</b>	December 7, 2024	
<b>Commercial Heifer Sale</b>	December 13, 2024	Milam County Auction
<b>Photography Upload</b>	January 1-13, 2025	
<b>Pick Up Broilers</b>	January 3, 2025	3:30 - 5:30 PM
<b>Rabbits Validation</b>	January 5, 2025	3:00 - 5:00 PM
<b>Weigh Out Commercial Steers</b>	January 27, 2025	8:00 AM
<b>Commercial Steer Recordbooks Due</b>	February 2, 2025	5:00 PM

### BCYF Home School Eligibility

The Homeschool Eligibility deadline is **January 13, 2025 by 5:00 pm**. All Homeschool students must fill out an eligibility form and turn it in by the deadline.

**NO FORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE OR ACCEPTED UNTIL AFTER JANUARY 1, 2025.**

Go to <http://agrilife.org/bell4h/4-henrollment-guidelines/eligibility> to fill out your form.

### BCYF Entries

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://agrilife.org/bellctyouthfair/>.

# Bell County Youth Fair

## February 1-8, 2025

### Bell County Youth Fair – PeeWee Showmanship

#### Rules:

1. PeeWees may only show Lambs, Goats and Swine
2. A parent / legal guardian must be ring side the entire time during PeeWee Showmanship.
3. Only animals previously entered and exhibited in the BCYF will be used for PeeWee Showmanship.
4. Ages - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and below / younger will be allowed to show in PeeWee Showmanship.
5. Only a BCYF exhibitor is to assist PeeWee exhibitors in the ring.

#### Dates:

#### **MONDAY, FEB. 3, 2025**

- o PeeWee showmanship is at the conclusion of the market swine showmanship.

#### **TUESDAY, FEB. 4, 2025**

- o PeeWee goat showmanship will be at the conclusion of the market goat showmanship.

#### **WEDNESDAY, FEB. 5, 2025**

- o PeeWee lamb showmanship will be at the conclusion of the market lamb showmanship.

For questions, contact the Bell County Youth Fair Coordinator Cheri O’Braden at [cheri.obraden@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:cheri.obraden@ag.tamu.edu)

### BCYF Horse Exhibitor Ride Nights

**Speed Events:** Thursday, January 30, 2025; 6:00-9:00 pm in the ELC

**Performance Classes:** Friday, January 31, 2025; 3:00-6:00 pm in ELC

**Stock Horse/Cattle Classes:** Friday, January 31, 2025; 6:00-9:00 pm in ELC

Make sure you read and follow the rules for this event! Rules can be found here: <https://agrillife.org/bellctyouthfair/files/2024/09/2025-BCYF-Ride-Night-Rules-1.pdf>

### BCYF Photography Upload

READ THE YOUTH FAIR INFORMATION starting on page 117. For those that entered pictures in the Bell County Youth Fair, you may start uploading pictures on January 1, 2025, until 5:00 pm on January 13, 2025.

The website to upload pictures is <http://agrillife.org/bellctyouthfair>

There is a photography upload tutorial on the Bell County Youth Fair website. Feel free to contact the superintendent if you have any questions.



# Important Dates

December 2024

**December 1:** BCYF Entry Deadline  
**December 1:** Food Challenge Practice  
**December 5:** CDM Practice  
**December 5:** D8 Food Show/Food Challenge Contest, Belton  
**December 6:** BCYF Roaster Pick Up  
**December 7:** BCYF Chisholm Trail Christmas Ball  
**December 12:** CDM Practice  
**December 12:** D8 Scholarship Workshop  
**December 13:** BCYF Home School Eligibility Deadline  
**December 13:** BCYF Commercial Heifer Sale  
**December 19:** CDM Practice  
**December 20:** County Council/Ambassador Christmas Party  
**December 24 & 25:** County Holiday, CEO CLOSED

January 2024

**January 2:** CDM Practice  
**January 2:** BCYF Container Pick Up—CLUB MANAGERS ONLY  
**January 3:** BCYF Broiler Pick Up  
**January 5:** BCYF Rabbit Validation  
**January 9:** CDM Practice  
**January 10:** TX 4-H Dog Validation Deadline  
**January 13:** 4-H FCH Coalition Meeting  
**January 16:** County Council Meeting  
**January 18:** Clover Kid Meeting  
**January 23:** CDM Practice  
**January 27:** BCYF Commercial Steer Weigh Out  
**January 30:** CDM Practice  
**January 30:** BCYF Ride Night  
**January 31:** BCYF Ride Night

February 2025

**February 2:** BCYF Commercial Steer Recordbooks Due  
**February 10:** CDM Practice  
**February 24:** CDM 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/>