

# January 2025 Focus

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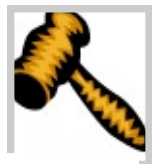
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# County Council & Ambassadors



## 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

# 4-H Club Managers & Volunteers

## Membership Advisory Board Meeting

**When:** January 21, 2025      **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

## 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. Practices will be held on the following dates at the CEO starting at 6:00 pm.

**January:** 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th.

### 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

REGISTRATION FOR THE BELL COUNTY YOUTH FAIR CONTEST IS OPEN. There are also a few spots remaining for Houston and Austin.

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

## 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)

# Upcoming Events

## **Bell County Photography Contest**

The Bell County 4-H Photography Contest is right around the corner so start preparations now! The Bell County entry deadline will be **Friday, February 21st**. Entries must be **EMAILED to [Sheryl.Long@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Sheryl.Long@ag.tamu.edu)**. The winner of each category in each of the age divisions in the Bell County 4-H Contest will advance to the District 8 Contest. Senior aged 4-H members that win their category in the county contest, will also advance to the State contest.

Please make sure and follow the instruction on the 2025 Texas 4-H Photography Contest Rules & Guidelines AND the District 8 Contest rules. Both will be posted on the Bell County 4-H website once available.

### **NEW THIS YEAR!**

Categories will be broken down per age division as follows: (Descriptions Below)

#### **Junior Age Division 3 Categories**

Animals – Domestic/Wildlife  
Plant/Landscape/Nature  
People

#### **Intermediate Age Division 6 Categories**

Animals – Domestic/Wildlife  
Plant/Landscape/Nature  
People  
Details/Macro  
Elements of Design  
Catch All

#### **Senior Age Division All 18 Categories**

Animals—Domestic	Motion/Action
Animal—Wildlife	People
Catch All	Plant/Flora
Details & Macro	Reflections
Dominant Color	Shadow/Silhouette
Elements of Design	Transportation
Enhanced	Theme—"Patriotism"- Showcase images that reflect national patriotism. Capture symbols, ceremonies, and landscapes that embody the spirit of our country, from flag displays and national monuments to patriotic events and celebrations.
Food	
Landscape & Nature (non-animal)	
Leading Line	
Long Exposure	

# Upcoming Events

## 2025-2026 Texas 4-H Council At-Large Delegate

The Texas 4-H Council is a team of 4-H members elected by their peers from across the state of Texas representing the twelve AgriLife Extension districts plus an additional six At-Large Delegates, elected by any Senior level 4-H member across the state. The Texas 4-H Council members serve as ambassadors for the Texas 4-H program. Members represent the organization statewide while collaborating with Extension faculty to plan, coordinate, and facilitate activities and events.

The 2025-2026 At-Large Delegate application information and the Council Contract (applicable to both At-Large and District members) have been posted on our website <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/ambassadors/>. Please make sure you review the contract and agree to it before running for one of the positions that serves on the Texas 4-H Council.

The July Council Training is scheduled for Monday, July 28, through Thursday, July 31, in Stephenville, TX.

## National 4-H Conference

### WHAT IS NATIONAL 4-H CONFERENCE?

National 4-H Conference is the Secretary of Agriculture's premier youth development opportunity to engage youth in developing recommendations for the 4-H Youth Development Program. If you want to strengthen your leadership and/or citizenship projects, this is an excellent opportunity.

### LOCATION:

The 2025 National 4-H Conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City – Arlington, VA. It is right by the Ronald Reagan National Airport and approximately 5 miles from the perfect gateway to Washington, D.C.'s leaders, monuments and museums.

### WHO SHOULD APPLY?

The National 4-H Conference requires youth who are focused and committed to working during the Conference and in their state. The ***Texas delegation will be limited to 1-5 youth delegates***, and 1-2 adult chaperones who will be required to engage in pre- and post-conference work and participate in all scheduled conference activities. The minimum age requirement for a Texas youth delegate is 15 years old (must be by January 1, 2025). The maximum age for a Texas youth delegate is 18.

### APPLICATION PROCESS:

Applications must be submitted online and certified through 4HOnline by January 8, 2025. Choose '2025 National 4-H Conference Delegate Application'. A fee is NOT required to complete the application. County Extension Office personnel will certify the application, so please communicate with your Extension Agent of your intent to apply. Final selection of delegates will be made on the basis of the online application; you may be contacted for a telephone interview. The final selection of delegates will be announced on, or before, January 17, 2025

Application can be found at: [https://www.nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2024-08/National%204-H%20Conference%20Scholarship%20Form\\_English\\_remediated\\_0.pdf](https://www.nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2024-08/National%204-H%20Conference%20Scholarship%20Form_English_remediated_0.pdf)

# Scholarships

## Graduating Seniors

Make sure and watch the newsletter and the Bell County 4-H Website for scholarship application deadlines. The website is always being updated with new scholarships and deadlines. Sheryl will be e-mailing applications to family e-mails listed on 4-H Connect for 4-H members listed in Grade 12.

## 2025 Scholarships Available!

Houston Livestock Show Exhibitor , Hildebrand, & Area Go Texan Scholarship— **January 31st**

State Fair of Texas Scholarship —**February 1st**

Texas Extension Education Association—**February 12th**

Texas 4-H Foundation FINAL Application due ONLINE— **February 15th**

Bell County 4-H Scholarship—**March 3rd**

Texas Farm Bureau Scholarship—**TBD**

Bell County Youth Fair—**TBD**

San Angelo Livestock Show Scholarship— **TBD**

Capital Farm Credit Scholarship—**TBD**

Lone Star Ag Credit Scholarship—**TBD**

District 8 TAE4-HA Scholarship—**TBD**

Heart O' Texas Fair & Rodeo Scholarship—**TBD**

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



# FCH Project News



## 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!

## Food Challenge Practices

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:

**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.

## Bell County Fashion Show Contest & Duds to Dazzle Contests

The Bell County 4-H contests for Fashion Show contest will have a date determined very soon! So start working on your projects NOW!

For the Duds to Dazzle contest, the entry deadline will be the Bell County 4-H Contest date! Extension Agents will make team assignments after the Bell County contest. You **will not** pre-determine your team. Entry forms can be found on the Bell County 4-H website once the Bell County Contest date has been set.

### Jr/Int Buying

Everyday Living  
Fashion Under \$25  
Dressy  
Special Interest

### Jr/Int Construction

Everyday Living  
ReFashion  
Dressy  
Special Interest

### Senior Buying

Business/Interview Attire  
Fashion Under \$25  
Semi-Formal to Formal  
Special Interest

### Senior Construction

Everyday Living  
ReFashion  
Semi-Formal to Formal  
Theater/Costume



# 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>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.

# 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

January 2025

February 2025

**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 8:** National 4-H Conference Deadline  
**January 9:** CDM Practice  
**January 9:** Ag Product Id Practice  
**January 10:** TX 4-H Dog Validation Deadline  
**January 13:** 4-H FCH Coalition Meeting  
**January 13:** BCYF Photography Upload Deadline  
**January 13:** BCYF Home School Eligibility Deadline  
**January 16:** County Council Meeting  
**January 16:** Ag Product Id Practice  
**January 18:** Clover Kid Meeting  
**January 21:** MAB Meeting  
**January 23:** CDM Practice  
**January 23:** Ag Product Id Practice  
**January 27:** BCYF Commercial Steer Weigh Out  
**January 30:** CDM Practice  
**January 30:** Ag Product Id Practice  
**January 30:** BCYF Ride Night  
**January 31:** BCYF Ride Night  
**January 31:** Houston Livestock Show Scholarship Deadline

**February 1-8:** Bell County Youth Fair  
**February 1:** State Fair of Texas Scholarship Deadline  
**February 2:** BCYF Commercial Steer Recordbooks Due  
**February 10:** CDM Practice  
**February 12:** TEEA Scholarship Deadline  
**February 15:** Clover Kids Fair  
**February 21:** Bell County 4-H Photography Contest Deadline  
**February 24:** CDM Practice

March 2025

**March 3:** Bell County 4-H Scholarship Deadline  
**March 3:** CDM Practice  
**March 10:** CDM Practice  
**March 27:** Texas 4-H Council At-Large Delegate Deadline  
**March 27:** County Council Meeting  
**March 31:** CDM Practice

TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION

BELL COUNTY  
4-H NEWSLETTER

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*Shel Long*



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

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