April 2025 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

Tractor Supply Spring Clover Sales is **April 21— May 5.** We are looking for 4-H members to man the Temple, Belton, and Killeen stores anytime during their regular business hours. Proceeds from the Clover Sales support 4-H at the National, State, and County levels with the County receiving the highest percentage. Please consider supporting our 4-H program by signing up for a few hours during the Spring Clover Sales.

1605 N. Main, Room 102
Belton, TX 76513
Phone: (254) 933-5305
Fax: (254) 933-5312
Website: http://agrilife.org/bell4h/

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

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
May 8	Council Officer Elections	Non-Perishable 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.

2025-2026 County Council Elections and Intent to Run Forms

If you are interested in being a Council Officer for the 2025-2026 4-H year, read the Council Officer Elections Handbook and fill out an Intent to Run Form. The Intent to Run Form is now an online Google Form.
https://forms.gle/9DYwoSGiRpRb7HkKA

Complete this form by **April 25, 2025** (NO EXCEPTIONS) to be eligible to run for an office on Election Day, **May 8, 2025.** All information about the election is posted on the Bell County 4-H Council website.

2025-2026 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 2, 2025.** 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 2, 2025**, of the current 4-H year to be considered for renewal. (Recordbook is also a requirement and is due **June 2, 2025**)

Please turn in point sheets with renewal application!

For applications go to: http://agrilife.org/bell4h/4-h-clubs-and-councils/ambassadors/

4-H Club Managers & Volunteers

Membership Advisory Board Meeting
When: May 13, 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.

Upcoming Events

2025 Scholarships Available!
District 8 TAE4-HYDP—**April 1st**
Bell County Youth Fair—**April 7th**
San Angelo Livestock Show Scholarship**— TBD**
Capital Farm Credit Scholarship—**TBD**
Lone Star Ag Credit Scholarship—**TBD**
Don't hesitate to ask for help if you have any questions regarding scholarships.

Junior Master Photography

Applications Due April 1, 2025. Open ONLY to JMP Candidates that have attended both the JMP 1 and JMP 2 workshops. Link was provided at the JMP 2 Workshop.

Photography Community Service

When: Saturday, April 12, 2025, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Where: Cotton Gin Festival, Main Street area, Burton, Texas.

Who: All 4-H age kids 8-18, clovers are welcome with parent/guardian.

What: Have fun and get some great shots at this family-friendly event! Concentration in people and food photography. All photos will be donated to the festival/museum.

RSVP: https://tinyurl.com/SignupCotton2025

Ambassador Leader: Audrey Schmidt, audreyschmidt0906@gmail.com

Adult Leader: Victoria Schmidt, 979-353-2586, Victoria.schmidt76@yahoo.com

District 8 Rifle/Light Rifle Contest
If you are interested in competing in the District 8 Rifle Contest that will take place on **Saturday, May 3rd,** at the Leon County Gun Club in Oakwood, entry deadline is **April 11, 2025** on 4-H Connect. Cost is $12 per member per match.
All details are updated on the website: https://agrilife.org/d84h/events-and-activities/rifle-contest/
Contact Sheryl Long if you have any questions regarding this contest.

Upcoming Events

Ag Product ID
Upcoming contests:
Leon County: April 11, 2025

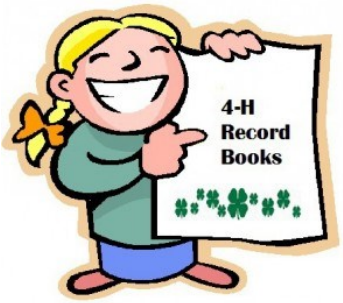
Please contact Michael Canales at 254-541-6293 or guajeman1@gmail.com to register for the BCYF contest or for more information.

Clover Kids

2025

May 17		
May 30	Deadline to RSVP for Clover Kids Summer Camp	Check out the Clover Kids website for more information on upcoming events:
June 21	Summer Camp	https://agrilife.org/bell4h/4-h-activities/clover-kids/
July 11	Deadline to turn in Clover Kid Record Book to CEO	For questions, contact Dawn Brown at
TBA	Clover Kids Cupcake Decorating Workshop	bc4hcloverkids@yahoo.com

Bell County Record Books



Due: June 2, 2025 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 10th** in McLennan County.

FCH Project News

Substitutes Needed at Texas 4-H Round Up

Attention High School aged 4-H members! We are needing substitute participants on some of the State 4-H Roundup teams. State Roundup is June 2-5, 2025. Participants can only do one contest per day. Presently the teams needing substitutes are FCH Quiz Bowl and Leaders 4 Life which are Tuesday contests. There may be more need as we get through the spring contests. If you are interested in this, please contact Barbara Wood at woodbtwice@gmail.com.

4-H FCH Coalition Meeting

Monday, May 5, 2025

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. Practices will be held at 6:00 p.m. at the County Extension Office in Belton as follows:

April 7, 14

District Contest is April 24, entries have already been submitted.

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

District 8 Fashion Show Contest & Duds to Dazzle Contests

The District 8 Fashion Show and Duds to Dazzle contests will take place on **Monday, April 28, 2025** at the Cleburne Conference Center.

Good luck to our Bell County 4-H participants!

If you have any questions in regards to rules, presentation times, etc., that information can be found on the District 8 website: https://agrilife.org/d84h/events-and-activities/fashion-show-fashion-storyboard/

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 Information

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

Texas 4-H Calf Roping and Break-A-Way School

On June 15-19. 2025, 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 16th deadline

The cost of the school will be $650 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

April 8th—General Rule Changes/Suggestions, Auction, Judges Committee
April 15th—Sheep, Goats, Rabbits, Poultry
April 22nd—Cattle, Swine, FCS
April 29th—Horses, Commercial Steer/Heifer, Ag Mechanics
May 6th—Livestock Judging, Ag Product Id, Vet Science Skillathon, Final Changes

Livestock Project Visits

Need help with livestock selection, feeding, daily care, fitting, or showmanship? County Extension Agents are available to help you prepare for the Major Stock Shows. Call the Bell County Extension Office at (254) 933-5305 or e-mail Meagan.Cline@ag.tamu.edu to schedule a project visit at your barn.

Livestock Project News

June Livestock Validation Tag Order Information

Bell County validations **REQUIRE** all 4-H and FFA members to order and pay for their tags prior to validation to ensure the correct number of tags are ordered. All orders must be handled through the Bell County Extension Office or placed online through the Bell Livestock Coalition Square Site.

Order Deadlines:
All cattle, State Fair, and Heart O' Texas Fair tag orders are due by **Tuesday, April 1st!**

There are two options for exhibitors to submit tag orders:
- To **order online** and pay by credit card, visit: https://bell-livestock-coalition.square.site/
- To **order in person** and pay with cash or check, please go to the Extension Office with payment, payable to the ***Bell Livestock Coalition***.
- Orders placed after the deadline will be subject to late fees.

It is time to place validation tag orders for the following livestock projects:

2025-2026 BCYF & Major Show Cattle
- State/BCYF Market Steers
- State/BCYF Registered Heifers

2025 State Fair of Texas
- Market Lambs & Goats
- Registered/Commercial Breeding Sheep & Goats
- Market Barrows
- Registered/Crossbred Gilts

2025 Heart O' Texas Fair
- Registered/Crossbred Gilts

SCHEDULED DATES & SPECIAL NOTES

Steer & Heifer Validation: Monday, June 23rd from 7:00–10:00 AM and 4:00–6:00 PM at the Cadence Bank Cent

Lamb & Goat Validation: Wednesday, June 18th from 8:30am—5:00 pm at the County Extension Office.

REGISTERED HEIFERS: The deadline for ownership, transfer, and registration for Registered Breeding Heifers is June 30, 2025. A color, PDF copy of the original registration papers should be emailed to your County Extension Agent (Meagan.Cline@ag.tamu.edu) or Ag Teacher by June 30, 2025.

All state validated heifers will be tagged similar to steers.

State Fair of Texas Sheep & Goat Validation: Wednesday, June 18th from 8:30am—5:00 pm at the County Extension Office.
Lambs and goats validated during the 2025 State Fair Validation Period will be eligible for 2026 Spring Major Shows. Market animals validated for the 2025 State Fair will carryover for 2026 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, 2025. A color, PDF copy of the original registration papers should be emailed to (Meagan.Cline@ag.tamu.edu) by June 30, 2025. If applicable, please carbon your ag teacher.

State Fair of Texas & Heart O' Texas Fair Swine Validation: Location and Schedule TBD
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, 2025. A color, PDF copy of the original registration papers should be emailed to your County Extension Agent (Meagan.Cline@ag.tamu.edu) or Ag Teacher by June 30, 2025.

Livestock Project News

Texas 4-H Horse Validation

Texas 4-H Horse Validation for the 2025 season **will be open in 4-H Online from March 1 – May 1, 2025**.
A few important reminders:

- ALL horses must be validated/re-validated each year. There is no limit to the number of horses that can be validated. You are encouraged to validate all horses that may possibly be shown at district and/or state shows. Only state validated horses can be substituted in the event that a validated horse becomes unusable due to lameness, sickness, etc.
- The family can submit payment of $10.00 per horse ($20.00 after April 15th, or $250 from May 1st to May 5th), in the form of a **credit card ONLY.**
- **From March 1 – April 15, the validation cost for each horse is $10.00.** The $10.00 cost is only guaranteed if the animal validation is approved by the county office by the April 15th deadline and the payment is processed.
- **From April 16 – May 1, the validation cost for each horse is $20.00.** The $20.00 cost is only guaranteed if the animal validation is approved by the county office by the May 1st deadline and the payment is processed.
- Each validation must include front view, right side view, and left side view images. **The entire horse should be included in the photo and markings should be clearly visible**.
- **If the horse is registered, a copy of the registration papers must be uploaded**. These papers must list the 4-Her, sibling, parent, stepparent, grandparent or legal guardian as the current owner. If the ownership is in the process of being transferred, please list "pending" in the registration number area. Once the updated registration papers have been received, please email me a copy of the new papers and I will add it to the validation online.

Lease horses are eligible to be validated and shown at District and State 4-H Horse Shows. An official Texas 4-H Horse Lease Agreement must be signed by the exhibitor, horse owner, and the supervising County Extension Agent. The lease period must include, at minimum, May 1st to August 31st of the current 4-H year. The lease agreement form can be found at https://texasyouthlivestock.com/horse-validation/ and must be uploaded in 4-H Online at the time of validation.

- Image uploads in 4-H Online must be in the form of a .jpg, .gif or .png file.
- **Families should validate each horse only one time.** Once the horse is validated, any sibling within that family in 4-H Online is eligible to show the horse at their district show and/or the State 4-H Horse Show.

Youth validating a futurity horse must be at least 12 years of age (as of Sept. 1, 2024) and at least in the 6th grade.

Validation walk-through guide for families: https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/4honline_family_guide_horse_validation_2023.pdf
For additional one-pagers and other resources, please visit https://texasyouthlivestock.com/horse-validation/
Validation walk-through video: https://youtu.be/OPoOmyC1kTk

- The family will receive an automated message from 4-H Online when the County Extension Agent has approved the horse at the county level. **This approval does NOT guarantee eligibility**. After it is approved at the county level, the validation will then be reviewed at the state level. The family will be notified by June 1st if there are any issues with the validation at the state level.

We will begin to review validations at the state level on March 1st and will be working closely with families and agents to fix errors as quickly as possible prior to the validation deadline.

Livestock Project News

District 8 4-H Horse Show

Date: June 16-17, 2025 **Location**: Cadence Bank Center (Bell County Expo)

Entry Deadline: May 24, 2025 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. CURRENT Coggins papers must be scanned and uploaded to 4-H Connect during the entry process.

Stalls are available at an estimated $25.00 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 Sunday. Stalls will be available starting at 6:00 a.m. through 10:00 p.m. on Monday, June 16, 2025. Shavings will be at the exhibitors cost.**

RV Hookups are available at $35 per night and should be purchased and coordinated with the Cadence Bank Center.

The Texas 4-H Horse Show will be held in Bryan at the Brazos County Exposition Center, July 20-26, 2025.

Contact Sheryl or Meagan if you have any questions.

http://agrilife.org/d84h/events-and-activities/horse-show/

Leadership Opportunities

Texas 4-H Water Ambassador

The role of a 4-H Water Ambassador requires youth who are dedicated, mature, dependable and have a genuine interest in water and natural resources. To be considered for selection, youth must:

- Be in high school or entering high school in the 2025/2026 academic year
- Be 14 years of age or older by September 1, 2025
- Be a current 4-H member, or be willing to join a local 4-H club if selected

Expectations:
4-H Water Ambassadors accept the responsibility of educating youth and adults in their communities and beyond. They commit to advancing their water knowledge throughout a 12-month term of service. Those selected are expected to:

- Participate in the summer Tier I 4-H2O Leadership Academy
- Commit to a minimum of 40 hours of education and service annually
- Notify and meet with his/her county extension agent regarding the new leadership role
- Report activities regularly and maintain contact with the 4-H2O Program Coordinator
- Pay the $300 program participation fee

Important Dates and Deadlines:
March 15, 2025 - Applications open
May 1, 2025 - Application close
May 10, 2025 - Applicant notified of acceptance status
June 1, 2025- $300 participation fee due
June 8-15, 2025 - Tier I 4-H2O Leadership Academy (tour)

Texas 4-H Photography NEW Ambassadors

The Texas 4-H Photography Ambassador Program provides opportunities to grow in the photography project through community service, workshops, training sessions, field trips, and leadership/citizenship activities. Photography Ambassadors serve in photography corps at state-level events, taking event photographs. To become an ambassador, members must first complete the requirements to become a Junior Master Photographer. Additional information about the program is available in the

Photography Ambassadors Brochure

How To Become A Photography Ambassador

Applications to become a Photography Ambassador are open in the spring to candidates who have completed the Junior Master Photographer training certification. The two-part Junior Master Photographer trainings typically take place in September and December each year. Application deadline is **April 30, 2025.**

Leadership Opportunities

Texas 4-H Livestock, Equine and Poultry Ambassador Programs

2024 Short Course Offering:

1. Texas 4-H Equine Ambassador Short Course, Tarleton State University – June 9-12, 2025
2. Texas 4-H Livestock Ambassador Short Course, Texas A&M University-Kingsville – June 16-19, 2025
3. Texas 4-H Poultry Ambassador Short Course, Texas A&M University – June 23-26, 2025
4. Texas 4-H Livestock Ambassador Short Course, Texas A&M University – July 7-10, 2025
5. Texas 4-H Livestock Ambassador Short Course, West Texas A&M Texas Tech – July 14-17, 2025

Selection Criteria:

- Senior level (grades 9-12 in fall 2025) 4-H youth that have exhibited a superior level of ambition regarding his/her livestock/equine/poultry projects
- Students with a profound interest in animal/equine/poultry science, animal production and advocacy
- Students have shown advanced leadership qualities and a willingness to help others
- Top 25% class rank preferred

Application Process:

1. Applications will be released on the Texas Youth Livestock and Agriculture website (www.texasyouthlivestock.com) on February 15, 2025
2. Student will complete the application and enter the contact information of supervising County Extension Agent
3. CEA will be automatically emailed a recommendation survey
4. A selection committee will review the applications and accept up to 25 participants per short course
5. Applications are due April 15, 2025

2025 Phase II and Phase III Offering:

1. Texas 4-H Advocacy Academy, Austin – July 21-23, 2025
2. Texas 4-H Japan Agricultural Experience – July 26-August 6, 2025 - *dates tentative*

District 8 Council Officer Application

The District Council information page has been updated and information can be found on the district website.

To be eligible to run for a D8 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 2025 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.

Highlights/Changes:

- All officer candidates will participate in a virtual interview on Tuesday, June 10th.
- All elected officers will be required to attend the council retreat to be held on July 15th. Location TBD. This retreat will last the entirety of the day. Attendance will be required for the entire day.
- All elected officers will be asked to plan and host a district-wide Club Officer Workshop, where club officers from each county can gather together and learn from the council officers. This event will take place on August 2nd. Location TBD.

Deadline of May 16, 2025.

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 2, 2025!** 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 2, 2025.** Record books for county competition will be due on **June 2, 2025**.

Awards age based on 4-H Grade as of August 31, 2024

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: TBD in June **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 24-26, 2025
Where: Texas 4-H Conference Center, Brownwood
Cost: $250/student

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.

Transportation will be provided by Bell County 4-H. Deadline is **May 16, 2025!**

Reach out to Sheryl.Long@ag.tamu.edu if you have any questions.

Southeast District 8 County Camp

Bell County 4-H has joined the rest of District 8 in hosting the Southeast District 8 County Camp! Don't miss out on this super fun camp! Open to all 4-H members 3rd-12th grade. Option for 10th-12th graders to be Teen Leaders.

What it is? A camp experience you will never forget! This is a fun 3-day camp that allows you to spend time with and enjoy camp activities with other 4-Hers from around District 8.

Details:

What: SE District 8 County Camp
When: July 11-13, 2025
Where: Lakeview Methodist Conference Center, Palestine
Cost: $150/student (Includes: Meals, Lodging, Snacks and T-Shirt)

Some other fun activities will include: zipline, black light dodge ball, swimming and more!

Transportation will be provided by Bell County 4-H. Deadline is **May 16, 2025!**

Reach out to Sheryl.Long@ag.tamu.edu if you have any questions.

Summer Fun Activities

Texas 4-H Conference Center Summer Camps @ Brownwood

The Bell County 4-H program WILL NOT be providing chaperones for any of the camps listed below. If your child wants to attend camp, either the parent or another approved 4-H volunteer must attend with the child.

Mini Camp I	June 8-10	$225
Mini Camp II	June 11-13	$225
Horizons	June 30-July 4	$400
County Camp I	July 7-11	$400
Outdoor Adventure Camp	July 24-27	$325
County Camp II	July 29-Aug 2	$400

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 2024-2025 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.

https://texas4hcenter.tamu.edu/services/youth-camps-and-retreats/

Bugs -n- Blooms Camp

We have an amazing opportunity for the younger siblings of 4-H members who will be participating in 4-H Roundup this summer! During 4-H Roundup, the Texas A&M University Gardens and Junior Master Gardener Program will be hosting a half-day camp, *BUGS N' BLOOMS CAMP*, to teach learners about plants and insects, and the unique relationships they have. Limited to 25 students, 4-H families have the opportunity to sign up before it is opened to the public.

Who: 8-10 year olds

What: Learn about plants and insects with hands-on activities from the JMG curriculum participate in a volunteer project and get to hear from professionals in related fields. Campers will earn a certificate at the completion of the camp, and will get take-home goodies as well!

When: June 3-5, 2025, from 8:30 am to 11:30 am

Where: The Gardens at Texas A&M University

Registration: March 24th: General Registration Opens. 25 student max. Registration Link

Description:

In this half-day camp, students will learn about the fascinating lives of insects, their behaviors, and their roles in our ecosystems. Insects are everywhere, and they play a very important role in garden life. Get ready to explore the world of insects and their contributions to our natural spaces through hands-on and experiential activities in The Gardens at Texas A&M University! After the completion of the camp, students will gain their Junior Master Gardener Golden Ray Insect Series Certificate! The camp fee includes a Junior Master Gardener Youth Handbook, camp t-shirt, camp hat, water bottle, drawstring pack, daily snack, and all materials utilized throughout the lessons.

Important Dates

April 2025

April 1: June Validation Tag Order Deadline

April 1: D8 TAE4-HYDP Scholarship Application due

April 1: Healthy Texas Youth Ambassador deadline

April 7: BCYF Scholarship Application due

April 7: CDM Practice

April 8: BCYF Meeting

April 11: D8 Rifle Contest deadline

April 12: D8 Horse Judging Contest

April 14: CDM Practice

April 15: Texas 4-H Livestock, Equine, and Poultry Ambassador Deadline

April 15: BCYF Meeting

April 16: Texas 4-H Horse Validation Increases to $20/horse

April 22: BCYF Meeting

April 25: County Council Intent to Run Form due

April 28: CDM Practice

April 30: Texas 4-H Photography Ambassador deadline

May 2025

May 1: Texas 4-H Horse Validation Deadline

May 1: Texas 4-H Water Ambassador Application due

May 3: D8 Rifle/Light Rifle Contest deadline

May 5: 4-H FCH Coalition Meeting

May 6: BCYF Meeting

May 8: County Council Meeting

May 13: MAB Meeting

May 14: Texas 4-H Dog Show Entry Deadline

May 16: D8 Leadership Lab (Surge) deadline

May 16: D8 Council Offer Intent to Run due

May 16: SE District 8 County Camp deadline

May 16: Texas 4-H Roping School Deadline

May 17: Clover Kid Meeting

May 24: District 8 Horse Show Entry Deadline

May 30: Clover Kid Summer Camp RSVP deadline

June 2025

June 2: Bell Co. 4-H Ambassador Application due

June 2: 4-H Recordbooks due

June 2: Adult Leader Award Nominations due

June 2: 4-H Award Applications due

June 16-17: District 8 Horse Show, Belton

June 18: Summer Lamb and Goat Validation, CEO

June 23: Cattle Validation, Cadence Bank Center

June 24-26: D8 Leadership Lab (Surge), Brownwood

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

18 USC 707

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/