

December 2025 Focus

Bell County Staff

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**Bell County 4-H
wishes you a
Merry
Christmas!**



TSC Clover Campaign

New Dates:

November 29th – December 15th

To embrace the holiday spirit, the Paper Clover campaign will move from October to November and December this year, officially launching on Black Friday!

Running from November 28th to December 14th, we are thrilled that TSC is hosting this event during the season of giving. TSC is also selling 4-H Christmas ornaments that will benefit 4-H!



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County Council & Ambassadors



County Council Meeting Dates

Dates and programs have been set for 2025-2026 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 8	State 4-H Officers	Hope Pregnancy Center Donations
March 5	Fire Department	Safe Place Donations
May 7	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, teethingers, baby toys, and other newborn related items.

Chisolm Trail Christmas Ball

This event will take place on **Saturday, December 6th**, 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 **Monday, December 22nd** 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: January 20, 2026 **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 5th** at the CEO for your club members that will be competing in the 2026 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

Clover Kids

2025

December No Meeting

2026

January 17 Meeting at CEO @2:00pm
 February 6 Deadline for CK Fair Registration
 February 9-11 BCYF: Peewee Showmanship
 February 21 Clover Kids Fair
 March 21 Meeting at CEO @2:00pm
 April 18 Meeting at CEO @2:00pm
 May 16 Meeting at CEO @2:00pm
 July 10 Clover Kids Recordbook to CEO
 August 6 Bell County 4-H Awards Banquet

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

Ag Product ID

Ag product ID practices are resuming ahead of the spring contests. Practices will be held at the CEO at 6:00 pm on the following dates:

December 4th and 18th

Upcoming contests:

BCYF – February 13th

San Angelo – February 19th

San Antonio – February 22nd

HLSR – March 18th

Rodeo Austin – March 23rd

Please contact Michael Canales at 254-541-6293 or guajamen1@gmail.com if you are interested in joining Ag Product ID or if you have any questions.

D8 4-H Youth Workshop Series

Calling all District 8 4-H youth! Get ready for an exciting new Youth Workshop Series designed to help YOU grow as a leader, improve your communication skills, and prepare for future opportunities in 4-H and beyond! These workshops will be presented virtually, via Zoom. Each one will begin at 7:00 and should last around 1 hour.

Upcoming Topics:

Jan 8: What is a Leader?

TBD: Leadership Opportunities

Apr 9: Preparing for Interviews with guest speaker Bailee Wright, Texas 4-H Foundation

Open to all D8 4-H members! Attend one or attend them all. You don't want to miss out on these superstar sessions.

Sign up here: <https://forms.office.com/r/xKmKEcHcxv>

Upcoming Events

Texas 4-H Dog Project Validation

To be eligible for the Texas 4-H Dog Show, dogs must be validated by January 10, 2026 in 4-H Online. Attached are detailed written instructions. Video instructions are also available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eogx1Dv3WQI> if that is more convenient

2026 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 2025-2026 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.

WORKSHOP - JMP 2 (Class of 2026)

Saturday, December 6, 2025 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Where: District IV 4-H Center (@Healthy Living Building), 17360 Coit Rd, Dallas

Who: 4-Hers 6th grade & up. **MUST HAVE ATTENDED WORKSHOP I.

What: Color & Composition. To be a certified "Junior Master Photographer", candidates must attend BOTH workshop I and workshop II, complete a competency test with a minimum score of 80%, submit four photos taken by applicant demonstrating understanding of instruction, participate in at least one practice event, complete a photography community service, and take part in at least two organized project experiences.

Why: Although there is no yearly performance requirement, Junior Master Photographers are expected to return to counties and districts to help expand their photography programs. They receive the Junior Master Photographer pin and certificate. Certified JMPs in 9th grade are eligible to apply to the State 4-H Photography Ambassador Program.

Cost: \$30 fee to recoup mandatory 4-H Connect Registration costs and materials

RSVP: Will be through 4-H Online <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/4honline/>

Contact: Derrick Bruton, Derrick.Bruton@ag.tamu.edu, Victoria Schmidt, Victoria.Schmidt76@yahoo.com, Tracy Coursey, tracy.coursey@gmail.com or Liz Schlak, liz.schlak@gmail.com



FCH Project News



FCH Coalition Meeting

When: January 12, 2026

Where: Bell CEO

Time: 6:00 pm

Fashion Show contest will be on the agenda!

District 8 Food Show & Food Challenge

When: Wednesday, December 4, 2025

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/>

Bell County Youth Fair

February 7-14, 2026

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, 2025 to December 31, 2025** 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, 2025** to participate in the BCYF. However, the fee will go up after October 31st so do it quickly.

Other Important Information

The 2026 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!

BCYF Entries

Entries will open on **October 13, 2025 at 8:00 AM**. All exhibitors must submit their entries online by **December 1st, 2025 at 5:00 PM**. For more information and to access the entry link, please visit the BCYF website <https://agrilife.org/bellctyyouthfair/>.

Important Dates

Online Entry Deadline	December 1, 2025	5:00 PM
Pick Up Roasters	December 5, 2025	3:30 - 5:30 PM
Chisholm Trail Christmas Ball	December 6, 2025	
Commercial Heifer Sale	TBD	Milam County Auction
Pick Up Broilers	December 23, 2025	3:30 - 5:30 PM
Rabbit Validation	January 4, 2026	3:00 - 5:00 PM
Weigh Out Commercial Steers	January 31, 2026	8:00 AM
Commercial Steer Recordbooks Due	February 6, 2026	5:00 PM

BCYF Home School Eligibility

The Homeschool Eligibility deadline is **January 16, 2026 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, 2026.

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

Bell County Youth Fair

February 7-14, 2026

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 - 2nd 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. 9, 2026

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

TUESDAY, FEB. 10, 2026

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

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 11, 2026

- 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

BCYF Horse Exhibitor Ride Nights

Speed Events: Thursday, February 5, 2026; 6:00-9:00 pm in the ELC

Performance Classes: Friday, February 6, 2026; 3:00-6:00 pm in ELC

Stock Horse/Cattle Classes: Friday, February 6, 2026; 6:00-9:00 pm in ELC

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

BCYF Photography CHANGES

READ THE YOUTH FAIR INFORMATION starting on page 119. Photography will NOT be entered digitally. Photography will be judged on impact, creativity, technical aspects, composition, and print quality. Make sure your photo meets class definitions.

* All entries must be printed on 5" x 7" photo paper, securely affixed on a solid white 7" X 9" mount board or foam board (see sample in fair book). Any other backer board will be disqualified. See instructions for mounting photos on BCYF website.

* The photo may be gloss or matte.

* Photos must NOT be framed, and no glass or plexiglass is allowed, these will be disqualified.

* A label with the exhibitor number and class will be affixed to the back of the foam board.

Photography examples, and definitions can be found online at <http://agrilife.org/bellctyyouthfair>

Important Dates

December 2025

December 1: BCYF Entry Deadline, Online
December 4: D8 Food Show & Food Challenge, Belton
December 4: Ag Product Id Practice
December 5: BCYF Roaster Pick Up
December 6: Ag Product Id Practice
December 6: Chisholm Trail Christmas Ball
December 6: JMP 2 Workshop
December 18: Ag Product Id Practice
December 22: Council/Ambassador Christmas Party
December 23: BCYF Broiler Pick Up
December 25-26: COUNTY HOLIDAY, OFFICE CLOSED

January 2025

January 4: BCYF Rabbit Validation
January 5: BCYF Container Pick Up—CLUB MANAGERS ONLY
January 8: D8 4-H Youth Workshop
January 8: County Council Meeting
January 10: Texas 4-H Dog Show Validation Deadline
January 12: 4-H FCH Coalition Meeting
January 17: Clover Kids Meeting
January 20: MAB Meeting
January 31: BCYF Weigh Out Commercial Steers

February 2026

February 5: BCYF Ride Night (Speed)
February 6: BCYF Commercial Steer Recordbooks Due
February 6: BCYF Ride Night (Performance & Stock)
February 7-14: Bell County Youth Fair
February 16: BCYF Home School Eligibility Deadline

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BELL COUNTY
4-H NEWSLETTER

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

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