

February 2026 Focus

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Good luck to everyone at
the Bell County Youth Fair!



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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
March 5	Fire Department	Safe Place Donations
May 7	Council Officer Elections	Non-Perishable Food Drive

Safe Place Donations

What is Safe Place?

Safe Place is a national youth outreach and prevention program for young people under the age of 18 (up to 21 years of age in some communities) in need of immediate help and safety. As a collaborative community prevention initiative, Safe Place designates businesses and organizations as Safe Place locations, making help readily available to youth in communities across the country. Safe Place locations include: libraries, YMCAs, fire stations, public buses, various businesses, and social service facilities.

- Non-Perishable Food Items
 - Hygiene Supplies
- Baby Items (diapers, wipes etc.)
- Cleaning Supplies (Clorox Wipes, All purpose cleaner etc.)
 - Toilet Paper
 - Paper Towels
 - Clothing



4-H Club Managers & Volunteers

Membership Advisory Board Meeting

When: May 12, 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.

Upcoming Events

Clover Kids

2026

February 6	Deadline for CK Fair Registration	Check out the Clover Kids website for more information on upcoming events: https://agrilife.org/bell4h/4-h-activities/clover-kids/
February 9-11	BCYF: Peewee Showmanship	
February 21	Clover Kids Fair	
March 21	Meeting at CEO @2:00pm	For questions, contact Dawn Brown or Amanda Robbins - 512-333-2306 bc4hcloverkids@yahoo.com
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	

Clover Kids Fair

When: Saturday, February 21, 2026

Where: Bell CEO

Time: 1:00 pm

Entry Deadline: Friday, February 6

The Clover Kids Fair is an event for “budding” 4-H members in Kindergarten through 2nd grade. This fair is designed for Clover Kids to show what they can do and is a great opportunity for them to experience how to prepare for future fairs.

- All Clover Kids must be enrolled in Bell County 4-H on 4-H Connect to participate.
 - This is not a competitive event.
 - Each Clover Kids will receive a participation ribbon.
 - There is no entry fee.

More information is on the Bell County 4-H Clover Kids website: agrilife.org/bell4h/4-h-activities/clover-kids/
For questions, contact bc4hcloverkids@yahoo.com

Ag Product ID

Ag product ID practices are resuming in January. Practices will be held at the CEO at 6:00 pm on the following dates:

February: 5 and 19

March: 5

Upcoming contests:

BCYF – February 13th

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.

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 23rd**. Entries must be **EMAILED to 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.

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

Junior Age Division 4 Categories

Animals – Domestic/Wildlife
Plant/Landscape/Nature
People
Catch All

Intermediate Age Division 8 Categories

Animals – Domestic/Wildlife
Plant/Landscape/Nature
People
Details/Macro
Elements of Design
Catch All
Dominant Color
Theme—Volunteers in Action

Senior Age Division All 18 Categories

Animals—Domestic	Long Exposure
Animal—Wildlife	Motion/Action
Catch All	People
Details & Macro	Plant/Flora
Dominant Color	Reflections
Elements of Design	Shadow/Silhouette
Enhanced	Transportation
Food	Theme—"Volunteers in Action", Celebrate the heart of
Landscape & Nature (non-animal)	Texas 4-H by capturing volunteers in meaningful
Leading Line	moments of service.

Upcoming Events

2026-2027 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 2026-2027 At-Large Delegate application information and the Council Contract (applicable to both At-Large and District members) have been posted on the 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 July 27-30, 2026. Location TBD.
Deadline: March 26, 2026

District 8 Council Officer Application

The District Council information page will be updated soon! All information will be on the [district website](#).

To be eligible to run for a District 8 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 2026 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>.

Application will open on 4-H Connect on May 15, 2026. More information coming soon!

Texas 4-H Amateur Photo Contest

Entry Deadline: February 28, 2026.

Rules and Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/tx4Hphoto26>

Youth class as well as adult class. You don't have to be in 4-H or associated with 4-H to enter!

The prize money For each of the four categories are \$200 for first place, \$100 for second place, \$50 for third place.

Categories are animals, people, landscape, and catch all.

Proceeds are benefiting the 4H's going on the international four H Photography trip to Southern Italy and Greece in summer 2027.

D8 4-H Record Book Workshop

When: March 26th, 2026

Where: Zoom

Time: 7:00pm

- New format
- Lets chat about resources
- Will be recorded

RSVP: [D8 4-H Record Book Workshop \(2026\) – Fill out form](#)

For more information, email Megan.Shaffer@ag.tamu.edu

Upcoming Events

Bell County Round Up and 4-H Talent Showcase

The Bell County Roundup includes 3 different contests. Educational Presentations, Public Speaking and 4-H Talent Showcase (formerly Share The Fun). You **must** enter the county contest in order to advance to the District 8 Contest.

Entries due to Sheryl.Long@ag.tamu.edu by **Friday, March 13, 2026**

Contest will take place at the Bell County Extension Office on **Tuesday, March 31, 2026.**

Educational Presentations are where you teach the audience about a certain topic/4-H project or it can also be a “how to” methods demonstration. Only open to individuals or teams of two.

Categories for Educational Presentations include:

Agriculture & Natural Resources, Animal Science, Beef, Health & Wellness, Horse, Family & Consumer Education, Open, Promote 4-H, Safety & Injury Prevention, STEM, Sheep & Goat, Swine

Public Speaking is speaking to a group without visuals and about an issue or topic.

4-H Talent Showcase (formerly Share The Fun) is similar to a talent show for those who are very talented with music whether that is singing, playing an instrument or dancing, poetry, or skits. The skit is a “Celebrate 4-H” skit, it usually is something very entertaining and fun that has to do with 4-H.

Categories include:

Choreographed Routines, Variety Show, Musical/Instrumental, Vocal, Solo/Band, 4-H Skit, Poetry/Prose

Entry Forms and more information can be found on the Bell County 4-H website under Projects.

4-H members may participate in multiple events. 4-H members of all age divisions may enter a maximum of one contest from each of the three columns on the website <http://agrilife.org/bell4h/projects/roundup-contest/>

For a description of what could possibly fit under each category, go to Bell County 4-H Roundup Website: <http://agrilife.org/bell4h/projects/roundup-contest/>

Texas 4-H Photography Opportunities

PRACTICE Opportunity – Fort Worth Trip: March 13-15, 2026

Who: Open to all 4-H ages and skill levels!

What: Street shoots at the Stockyards, architectural shots downtown, golden hour sessions, nature and wild-life practice, macro work at the Botanic Garden, night photography, and portfolio building.

Cost: Entrance fees for may apply for some locations at your own expense

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/4HFortWorth>

PRACTICE Opportunity – Spring Break in Big Bend: Mar 20-22, 2026

Who All 4-H age kids 8-18 years old and their families

What: Explore the “Grand Canyon of Texas” and the Terlingua Ghost Town.

Where: Big Bend National Park

Cost: No 4-H Costs.

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/BigBend4-H>

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.

2026 Scholarships Available

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

Houston Livestock Show Exhibitor, Hildebrand, & Area Go Texan Scholarship— **February 2nd**

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

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

Bell County 4-H Scholarship—**March 2**

Bell County Area Go Texan Scholarship—**March 3rd**

Ag Trust Farm Credit Scholarship—**March 13th**

Heart O' Texas Fair & Rodeo Scholarship—**March 31**

Bell County Youth Fair—**TBD**

Capital Farm Credit Scholarship—**TBD**

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

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

FCH Project News

Bell County Fashion Show Contest & Duds to Dazzle Contests

When: February 24, 2026

Deadline: February 17, 2026

NEW THIS YEAR! Fashion Show—All age divisions will use the same categories. There will no longer be a separate contest for Natural Fiber. This is now rolled into the Texas Natural Fiber category. Students will only be able to enter 1 category for this contest.

Buying

- Business/Interview Attire
- Fantastic Fashions Under \$25
- Semi-Formal to Formal
- Theater/Costume

Construction

- Everyday Living
- Refashion
- Semi-Formal to Formal
- Theater/Costume

UPCYCLE(*NEW)

TEXAS NATURAL FIBER (*NEW)

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:

<https://agrilife.org/bell4h/projects/clothing-and-textiles-project/>

Consumer Decision Making

Consumer Decision Making is a judging contest where the participant evaluates and ranks 4 products for a given consumer. This is open to Juniors, Intermediates, and Seniors for judging. Intermediates provide one set of verbal reasons and seniors provide two sets of verbal reasons.

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

February 2, 17, 23

March 9, 19, 24, 30

April 6, 13

Contest in San Angelo, Thursday, February 19

Contest in San Antonio, Saturday, February 21

District 8 Contest, Friday, April 17 in Waxahachie

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

Amateur Photo Contest

Proceeds benefit the Texas 4-H Photography program. Open to non-professional youth and adult photographers. No 4-H membership required. \$10 per photo.

Deadline: January 31, 2026

Website: <https://tinyurl.com/tx4Hphoto26>



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

Texas 4-H Dog Show will be held on July 7-9, 2026 at the Hill Country Youth Event Center in Kerrville, Texas. To be eligible for this show, dogs must be validated by January 10, 2026 on 4-H Online.

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

Entry deadline is **May 13, 2026.**

Save the Date for Spring District Contests

District 8 Horse Judging Contest: April 12th, Brazos Expo Center, College Station

District 8 Livestock Judging Contest: May 3rd, Pearce Pavilion, College Station

District 8 Meats Judging Contest: May 3rd, Rosenthal Meats Lab, College Station

If you are interested in one of these contests, reach out to Meagan Cline at Meagan.Cline@ag.tamu.edu

BEFORE March 23RD for ALL CONTESTS!

Bell County Youth Fair

February 7-14, 2026

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!

Important Dates

Commercial Steer Recordbooks Due February 6, 2026 5:00 PM

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.

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>

Bell County Youth Fair

Schedule

FRIDAY, FEB. 6, 2026

2:30 p.m.....Horses may move into stalls-optional

SATURDAY, FEB. 7, 2026

7:30-8:00 a.m. Check In Halter, Western & Stock Horses

8:30 a.m.....Horse Show Begins

9:00 a.m.....Check in Fashion Revue

Appearance Judging & Rehearsal for Fashion Revue

1:00 p.m..... Fashion Revue-Public Show in Special Events Room

2:00-6:00 p.m.....Photography turn in

3:00-5:00 p.m.....Swine-TACK ONLY-Move in

6:30 p.m.....Clem Mikeska Exhibitor Appreciation Supper & Dance in Assembly Hall

SUNDAY, FEB. 8, 2026

6:00-10:00 a.m.....Move in ALL Swine

7:00 – 10:00 a.m.....Move in Commercial Steers

8:00-8:30 a.m.....Check in English Horses

9:00 a.m.....English Events begin

11:00 a.m.....Weigh & Classify Swine

11:30 a.m. –12:00 p.m.....Check In Speed Horses

1:00 p.m.....Speed Events begin

5:00 p.m.....Judge Breeding Swine & Showmanship
(LOPB, Berk, DOPB, Duroc, York, Hamp, Light Cross, Dark Cross)

Breeding Swine-Optional Release after show

MONDAY, FEB. 9, 2026

8:00 a.m.....Judge Market Swine
(LOPB, Berk, DOPB, Duroc, York, Hamp, Light Cross, Dark Cross)

Market Swine Showmanship-followed by Peewee Showmanship

RELEASE ALL HOGS AT END OF SHOW (NO FLOOR OPTION)

10:00 a.m..... Commercial Steer & Heifer Interviews,
release all Comm. Steers after interviews but, not before 3:00 p.m.

11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.....Check In Family & Consumer Sciences

5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.....Cattle-TACK ONLY move in

6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.....Goat -TACK ONLY move in

4:00 p.m..... Assembly Hall Closed for FCS Judging

TUESDAY, FEB. 10, 2026

6:00 a.m.-8:45 a.m.....Move in all Goats & Pick Up Packets
7:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.....Move in all Marker Steer & Heifers
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.....Assembly Hall CLOSED ALL DAY
8:00 a.m.– 12:00 noon.....Breeding Rabbits arrive & check-in
8:00 a.m.....Rabbit Showmanship Begins
8:00 a.m.....Rabbit Judging Contest
9:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m.....Weigh & Tooth Breeding Goats
9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.....Weigh Market Goats
11:30 a.m.....Hamburger Lunch
1:00 p.m.....Judge Breeding Rabbits
RELEASE ALL BREEDER RABBITS AT END OF SHOW
1:00 p.m.....Judge Breeding Goats & Breeding Goat Showmanship
10 min break- Judge Market Goats & Showmanship
Pee-Wee Showmanship (Peewee rules on pg.2)
RELEASE ALL NON-FLOORED GOATS AT END OF SHOW
4:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.....Ag Mech arrival & Check In
5:00 p.m. or after goat show -8:00 p.m.Move in Ag Mechanics
5:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m.....Check Heifer Papers
6:00 p.m.....Weigh & Classify Market Steer
6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.....Sheep -TACK ONLY move in

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 11, 2026

6:00 a.m.-8:45 a.m.....Move in all Sheep & Pick Up Packets
8:00 a.m.....Judge Ag. Mechanics followed by Awards
RELEASE ALL AG MECH PROJECTS AFTER AWARDS
8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.....Move in & Weigh Fryer Rabbits
9:00 a.m.....Assembly Hall Opens- FCS Exhibits
9:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m.....Weigh & tooth Breeding Sheep
9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.....Weigh & Classify Market Lambs
11:00 a.m.....Judge Fryer Rabbits (Meat Pens then Single Fryers)
RELEASE ALL FRYER RABBITS AT END OF SHOW
1:00 p.m.....Judge Breeding Sheep & Breeding Sheep Showmanship
10- Min Break- Judge Market Lambs & Showmanship
Pee-Wee Showmanship (Peewee rules on pg. 2)
REALESE ALL NON-FLOORED LAMBS AT END OF SHOW
6:00 p.m.....FCS Awards Ceremony
Country Store to open immediately after awards & Closes at 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEB. 12, 2026

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m..... Move in Commercial Broilers
8:30 a.m. –9:30 a.m.....Move in Turkeys
9:30 a.m. --10:30 a.m..... Move in Roasters
11:30 p.m..... Judge Poultry- Roasters, Broilers, Turkeys
RELEASE ALL POULTRY AT THE END OF THE SHOW
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.....FCS Country Store
Food Division items for sale in the Assembly Hall
10:00 a.m. Mini Rodeo in the Dome
1:00 p.m.....Judge Breeding Heifers & Showmanship
Commercial Steer & Heifer Awards Ceremony-Prior to Steer Show
4:00 p.m. or 30 mins after Heifer Show.....Judge Market Steer & Showmanship
RELEASE ALL CATTLE AT THE END OF THE SHOW
2:00 p.m-4:00 p.m.....Assembly Hall Closed
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.....Check out/Release FCS Divisions
Auction eligible exhibitors MUST declare Auction Sale status no later than ONE hour. after the conclusion of the Market Steer Show

FRIDAY, FEB. 13, 2026

7:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m.....Horticulture Floral Design check in Garth Arena
7:30 a.m.-8:15 a.m.....Wool Judging Check In Livestock Exposition Building
8:00 a.m.-8:30 a.m.....Floriculture Contest Check-In
8:00 a.m.-8:30 a.m.....Livestock Judging Check-In Livestock Exposition Building
8:00 a.m.-8:30 a.m.....Vet. Science Skillathon Check In Equine & Livestock Building
8:30 a.m.....Wool Judging Contest
9:00 a.m.....Floriculture Contest
9:00 a.m.....Livestock Judging Contest
9:00 a.m.....Vet. Science Skillathon
10:00 a.m. – Noon.....Horticulture Floral Design Judging
11:30 a.m.- 12 Noon.....Ag Product ID Check In Livestock Exposition Building
12:00 noonAg Product ID Contest
7:30 p.m.....PRCA Rodeo

SATURDAY, FEB. 8, 2025 (tentative)

10:30 a.m. Auction Exhibitors -MANDATORY meeting & lunch
11:00 a.m.....Buyer Luncheon
12:00 noon.....Premium Auction Sale, Awards
7:30 p.m. PRCA Rodeo

Important Dates

February 2026

March 2026

February 1: State Fair of Texas Scholarship Due
February 2: HLSR Scholarships Due
February 2: CDM Practice
February 5: Ag Product Id Practice
February 5: BCYF Ride Night (Speed)
January 8: Ag Product Id Practice
February 6: BCYF Commercial Steer Recordbooks Due
February 6: BCYF Ride Night (Performance & Stock)
February 7-14: Bell County Youth Fair
February 12: BC TEEA Scholarship Due
February 15: Texas 4-H Foundation Scholarship Due
February 16: BCYF Home School Eligibility Deadline
February 17: CDM Practice
February 19: Ag Product Id Practice
February 21: Clover Kids Fair
February 23: Bell County 4-H Photography Entries Due
February 23: CDM Practice

March 5: County Council Meeting
March 5: Ag Product Id Practice
March 9: CDM Practice
March 19: CDM Practice
March 24: CDM Practice
March 30: CDM Practice

April 2026

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

BELL COUNTY
4-H NEWSLETTER

Bell County Extension
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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/>