

# NEWSLETTER

## July 2026 Focus



The Bell County Stars and Bell County Belles rode their hearts out at the Equestrian Drill Teams of Texas Finals in June and WOW... they brought the heat!

Our Stars competed in the Youth Division, while our Belles held their own in the Open Division against experienced adult teams that perform at rodeos across Texas! We couldn't be more proud of every rider for their dedication, sportsmanship, and hard work all season long!

### Final Results:

Youth Quad Division A – 1st; Red Team- OG'S  
 Youth Quad Division A – 4th ; White Team - Freshman quad  
 Youth Quad Division B – 2nd; Blue Team  
 Youth Theme Division B – 2nd - STARS  
 Youth Freestyle Division B – 4th - STARS  
 Open Theme Division B – 1st - BELLES  
 Open Freestyle Division A – 4th - BELLES

### FINALS – ALL AROUND

Youth Quad Division C Champions – 1st- White Team  
 Open Theme Division B Champions – 1st- Belles

From first-year riders to seasoned veterans, every horse and rider gave it their all! Congratulations to these amazing athletes, coaches, parents, and supporters for an unforgettable season!

**NEXT STOP** - the Belles will be in ACTION all 3 nights of the Belton's 4th of July Celebration and PRCA Rodeo, Belton, Texas!

## TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

### Quick Links

-  <https://agrilife.org/bell4h/>
-  <https://v2.4honline.com>
-  <facebook.com/bell4h>

### Bell County Staff

Sheryl Long - County Extension Agent  
4-H & Youth Development

Meagan Cline - County Extension Agent  
Natural Resources

Floyd Ingram - County Extension Agent  
Agriculture

Beverly Hodges - County Extension Agent  
Family & Community Health

Sheryl Austin - Cooperative Extension  
Family & Community Health

Hailey Swanson - 4-H Program Assistant

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# County Council and Ambassadors

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## County Council Officer Training

The Mandatory County Council Officer Training will take place on Thursday, July 23rd. This will be at the Bell CEO from 9:00 am—11:00 am. Bring your calendar and community service ideas.

## Bell County Ambassador Training

The Mandatory Bell County 4-H Ambassador Training will take place sometime this summer. Be checking your email for available dates from Sheryl soon!

# 4-H Club Managers & Volunteers

## Membership Advisory Board FINANCE Meeting

**When:** August 24<sup>th</sup> **Where:** CEO **Time:** 5:15 pm

This meeting is open to all parents and leaders! We encourage all Club Managers to attend and give their opinions on how Bell County 4-H funds are utilized.

## Membership Advisory Board Meeting

**When:** August 24th **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.

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# Upcoming Events

## Bell County 4-H Awards Banquet

**When:** August 6, 2026    **Where:** Huntington Bank Expo, Special Events Room

**Theme:** Oh, the Places You'll Go!    **Time:** 6:00 pm

The annual 4-H Banquet is set for Thursday, August 6th at the Huntington Bank Expo, Special Events Room. We will need pictures for the General 4-H slides show. Please send any pictures from your club activities or 4-H contests to [Sheryl.Long@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Sheryl.Long@ag.tamu.edu).

Please RSVP to <https://forms.gle/Sgv1xLnjG1CD6qek9>  
or with [Jennifer.Thompson@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Jennifer.Thompson@ag.tamu.edu) or 254-933-5305 NO LATER THAN July 31st!

## 2026 Clover Kids

**July 10** - Clover Kids Record book to CEO

**August 6** - Bell County 4-H Awards Banquet

For questions, contact Dawn Brown or  
Amanda Robbins - 512-333-2306

[\*\*bc4hcloverkids@yahoo.com\*\*](mailto:bc4hcloverkids@yahoo.com)

Check out the Clover Kids website for more information  
on upcoming events:

<https://agrillife.org/bell4h/4-h-activities/clover-kids/>

# FCH Project News

## Aperture Academy

July 6th-10th

**Who:** Grades 5th-8th; Ages 10-14

**What:** A camp where youth will learn the basics of photography. This camp is geared for beginners and promises hands-on learning in a fun camp atmosphere.

Cameras will be provided.

**Where:** Texas 4-H Center, Brownwood

**RSVP:** <https://texas4hcenter.tamu.edu/>

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# 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-Milam Youth Agribusiness Tour

The Bell-Milam Youth Agribusiness Tour is full! Be looking for an email from Meagan Cline on your confirmation.

## Bell County Rabbit Clinic

**When:** August 22, 2026 **Where:** Huntington Bank Expo Assembly Hall **Time:** 9:00 am

**RSVP:** August 7, 2026 to CEO

Save the date! We will be hosting a rabbit workshop open to all 4-H and FFA members in Bell County. More information to come soon!

## West Texas Fair & Rodeo Entry Deadline

If you are attending the West Texas Fair & Rodeo, please see the entry information below. Entry forms and payment are due to the CEO by **August 3rd, 2026**. No late entries will be accepted.

Youth livestock entries must include a current Quality Counts number. For exhibitors entering 3rd, 6th, or 9th grade this year, you must take the course.

Market steer entries are limited to the first 720 entered. Limit 2 steers per exhibitor. State validation is required, and entries must be submitted through the CEO. Exhibitors may complete their own entries for all other species. More information can be found here:

<https://www.westtexasfairrodeo.com/p/getconnected/exhibitors>

For questions, contact Meagan Cline at 254-933-5305



# Livestock Project News



## 2025 Fall Livestock Show Entry Deadlines

If you are attending the State Fair of Texas & Heart O' Texas Fair, please see the entry information below. Entry forms and payment are due to the CEO by August 10, 2026. No late entries will be accepted. Youth livestock entries must include a current Quality Counts number. For exhibitors entering 3rd, 6th, or 9th grade this year, you must take the course.

- **State Fair of Texas Entry Process:** Fill out paper entry form, enter information into online parent portal and bring form to the Extension Office with payment by **August 10, 2026**. The schedule, premium book, and additional entry forms can be found at <https://bigtex.com/get-involved/livestock-shows/livestockexhibitors/>.

Visit <https://livestock.bigtex.com/login/> (after August 1st) to login or create your SFT Parent Portal account. Upon completion of submitting your entries they are directed to your ag teacher or county agent's queue. All exhibitors must electronically complete and sign: 1. Release of liability and indemnity agreement AND 2. W9 that includes a social security number.

- **Heart O' Texas Entry Process:** Fill out paper form and bring form to the Extension Office with payment by **August 10, 2026**. The schedule, premium book, and additional entry forms can be found at <https://www.hotfair.com/p/livestock-show--contests>.

Entry forms for the above shows will be available at the CEO and posted online when available. Please submit appropriate paperwork with payment for all entries. Exact cash or checks can be made payable to the Bell Livestock Coalition. If you would like to pay by Credit Card, Meagan can send you an invoice.

Please note that all Credit Card payments will incur a 3% fee. Entry forms can be found on <https://agrilife.org/bell4h/projects/4-h-livestock/>

When filling out your entry forms for statewide shows, please use Bell County 4-H rather than your specific club name.

For questions, contact Meagan Cline at 254-933-5305 or [Meagan.Cline@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Meagan.Cline@ag.tamu.edu).



# Livestock Project News



## Save the Date for Local Show Opportunities!

**Central Texas State Fair:** September 4-6, 2026

A flyer with more information is coming soon!

**Holiday Classic Clinic and Jackpot Show:** October 31, 2026

NEW THIS YEAR! It will be a one day event. This will be the 35th annual Holiday Classic! Remember, this show is completely FREE for exhibitors and their families. There will be high quality educational clinics, great food, and awesome giveaways as always! If you or your business would like to be a sponsor of this event to help keep it FREE for attendees, please let us know!

## 2026 Major Show Registered Heifer Validation Tag Orders:

**DEADLINE:** August 27, 2026    **COST:** \$30/tag

It is time to place state validation tag orders for registered heifers going to 2027  
Spring Major Shows!

Bell County REQUIRES all FFA and 4-H members to pre-order and pay for Major Show tags prior to validation. Major Show tags are \$30/each for registered heifers. Validation tags for only the county show will be purchased on-site during physical validation for \$5/each. Completing validation does NOT enter livestock in the shows.

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 exact cash or check, come by the Extension Office with payment, payable to Bell Livestock Coalition.

Physical validation will be held at the Huntington Bank Expo on the dates listed below:

Heifer Validation: **October 19th from 4:00 – 6:00 pm**

Special Notes for Heifer Validations:

- Heifers already validated do NOT have to be re-validated or have a tag. Heifers ONLY need to be re-validated if they change breed or ownership.
- If you have leftover tags from June validation, you may use them this fall.

If you have any questions, please contact Meagan Cline at [meagan.cline@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:meagan.cline@ag.tamu.edu)  
(254) 933-5305.



# Livestock Project News



## 2027 Major Show Lamb and Goat Validation Tag Orders

**DEADLINE:** August 27, 2026    **COST:** \$30/tag

It is time to place state validation tag orders for lambs and goats going to 2027 Spring Major Shows! Bell County **REQUIRES** all FFA and 4-H members to pre-order and pay for Major Show tags prior to validation. Major Show tags are \$30/each. Validation tags for only the county show will be purchased on-site during physical validation for \$5/each. Completing validation does **NOT** enter livestock in the shows.

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 exact cash or check, to the Extension Office with payment, payable to Bell Livestock Coalition.

Physical validation will be held at the Huntington Bank Expo on the dates listed below:

Sheep and Goat Validation: **October 20<sup>th</sup> and October 27<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 – 7:00 pm**

Special Notes for Sheep and Goat Validations:

All lambs and goats validated during the 2026 State Fair Validation period including market animals **WILL BE ELIGIBLE** for 2027 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 RE-VALIDATE** the project within the next validation period.

If you have any questions, please contact Meagan Cline at [meagan.cline@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:meagan.cline@ag.tamu.edu) or (254) 933-5305.



# Livestock Project News



## 2026 Major Show Swine Validation Tag Orders:

Market Barrows, Registered Breeding Gilts, Crossbred Gilts

**DEADLINE:** September 18, 2026    **COST:** \$30/tag

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 exact cash or check, come by the Extension Office with payment, payable to Bell Livestock Coalition.

Physical validation will be held at the Huntington Bank Expo on the dates listed below:

**November 16th and November 23rd from 4:00 – 7:00 pm**

- Registered Gilt papers must be owned on or before November 30, 2026 and they must also be registered (litter registration, bottom left hand corner) on or before November 30, 2026 . There are NO EXCEPTIONS on this! Please send a PDF copy of the ORIGINAL registration papers for the registered gilts you plan to validate to [meagan.cline@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:meagan.cline@ag.tamu.edu) PRIOR to validation.

## 2027 Major Show Broiler Order

Deadline for Bell County 4-H: **Friday, September 4, 2026.**

- Broiler chicks cost \$1.50 each and must be ordered in increments of 25 with a maximum of 75 chicks per exhibitor or family
- San Antonio birds are ordered separately from Houston/Austin birds.
- Estimated pick up for San Antonio birds is December.
- Estimated pick up for Houston/Austin birds is January.

Order form is available at the Bell County Extension Office or online.

If you have any questions, contact Meagan Cline at [Meagan.Cline@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Meagan.Cline@ag.tamu.edu) or (254) 933-5305.



# Awards



## 4-H Award Interviews

**When:** July 21    **Where:** CEO    **Time:** 9:00-11:30 am

Be checkign your email for a schedule to schedule a time for your interview!



# Summer Fun Activities



## Southeast District 8 County Camp

For those members that have registered for this camp, we will be traveling to camp in a rental car!

### Tentative Travel Schedule:

7/10: Meet at the CEO by 7:45 am. Leaving by 8:00 am sharp!

7/12: Depart camp around 11:00 am.

Meagan sent all parents an email with all the details. Reach out to her if you have any questions.

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# Summer Fun Activities Food Workshops

## Cakes and Cupcakes - Working with Tips

Presented by Sue Butler

**When:** July 7<sup>th</sup>    **Location:** Bell CEO    **Time:** 5:30-7:30pm    **Cost:** \$10.00

Open to all age divisions, including clover kids

Adult must be present for Clover and Junior participants

RSVP by July 6<sup>th</sup> at (254)-933-5305 or online

## Cupcake Decorating for Clover Kids

Presented by Sue Butler

**When:** July 18<sup>th</sup>    **Location:** Bell CEO    **Time:** 10:00am-12:00pm    **Cost:** \$10.00

Open to clover kids only. Adult must be present

RSVP by July 16<sup>th</sup> to CEO or online

## Cupcake Decorating

Presented by Sue Butler

**When:** July 18<sup>th</sup>    **Location:** Bell CEO    **Time:** 1:00-3:00pm    **Cost:** \$10.00

Open to junior, intermediate, and senior age divisions

RSVP by July 16<sup>th</sup> to CEO or online

## Creative Decorating

Presented by Sue Butler

**When:** July 23<sup>rd</sup>    **Location:** Bell CEO    **Time:** 5:30-7:30pm    **Cost:** \$15.00

Open to junior, intermediate, and senior age divisions

Adult must be present for junior participants

RSVP by July 21<sup>st</sup> at (254)-933-5305 or online

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# Summer Fun Activities

## Sewing Workshops

### Quilting Workshop

Presented by Mary Ann Everett

**When:** July 20<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>    **Location:** Bell CEO    **Time:** 8:00am - 12:00pm    **Cost:** \$10.00

Open to all age divisions, including clover kids

Bringing your own sewing machine is strongly recommended!

RSVP by July 13<sup>th</sup> to CEO or online

### Create & Sew Workshop

Presented by Jammie Payne

**When:** July 7<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>    **Location:** Bell CEO    **Time:** 9:00 am - 12:00 pm    **Cost:** \$10

Open to junior, intermediate, and senior age divisions.

A relaxed session to learn and create together!

Session 1: How to add inseam pockets

Session 2: Quilted Tote Bags

Community Service Project: Back to School Clothing Drive

Gently used school clothes are being collected and donated. It's a great time to clean out your closet and donate to a great cause.

## Other Fun Workshops

### Financial Awareness Workshop

Presented by Laura Collier

**When:** July 21<sup>st</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>    **Location:** Bell CEO    **Time:** 10:00am - 12:00pm    **Cost:** \$10.00

**July 21<sup>st</sup> Session** - "Making the most of your income"

**July 29<sup>th</sup> Session** - "Building your credit history"

Open to seniors ONLY

RSVP by July 16<sup>th</sup> at (254)-933-5305 or online



# Hunter's Spectacular



## Event Details

### Drawing for 20 Guns

- Winners will be drawn on Facebook Live on **Saturday, October 17th** starting at 11:00 am
- Once a ticket is drawn, it will not be put back into the drawing.
- 4-H members are expected to sell at least 5 tickets per member. \$20 tickets
- Ticket turn-in will be by Club appointment only on:
  - **Tuesday, October 13th through Friday, October 16th**
  - 8:00am – 11:00am or 1:00pm – 4:00pm
- \*NEW This Year\* Sign up times available via a Google Sheet emailed out by Hailey Swanson
- **Clubs MUST pay with their 4-H Club check**

## Handgun Bonus Draw

These tickets will be \$50 per ticket and this drawing is limited to 100 tickets. The Bonus Draw will be sold only by Bell County 4-H Ambassadors.

- Each club is expected to donate \$100 to purchase the handgun for the Bonus Draw.
- Deadline for \$100 donation – **September 25, 2026**
- Bell County 4-H Ambassadors are expected to sell at least 5 tickets to the Bonus Draw before selling tickets for the main Hunter Spectacular drawing.

Each club needs to recruit at least one \$200 sponsor for this event. Feel free to get more!

## 4-H Club Incentives

We want to continue to incentivize member participation. In that effort, each Club that meets the 3 requirements listed below will earn a 10% kickback.

1. 100% ticket sales based on enrollment from last year based on each member selling 3 tickets.
2. Donate \$100 to the Bonus Draw side raffle.
3. Recruit at least one \$200 event sponsor—**Deadline September 25, 2026**

For example: if your club is given 100 tickets to sell based on last year's membership, you will receive the 10% kickback if you sell those 100 tickets, recruit at least one \$200 event sponsor, and donate \$100 to the Bonus Draw side raffle.

## 4-H Member Incentives

The 4-H member with the highest number of ticket sales, will get \$100 cash! This does not include tickets sales from the Bonus Draw (Ambassadors only). Make sure to complete the "sold by" portion on your tickets to get credit! Club Managers will have to keep track of this and share with the Extension Office on their club's highest seller and the number of tickets they sold.

# Important Dates

## July

- July 7:** 4-H Create & Sew Workshop
- July 7:** Cakes and Cupcakes—Working with Tips
- July 9:** 4-H Create & Sew Workshop
- July 7-9:** Texas 4-H Dog Show, Kerrville
- July 10:** Clover Kids Record Books Due
- July 10-12:** SE D8 County Camp
- July 15:** Bell-Milam Youth Agribusiness Tour
- July 18:** Cupcake Decorating Workshop for Clover Kids
- July 18:** Cupcake Decorating Workshop
- July 20:** 4-H Quilting Workshop
- July 21:** 4-H Awards Interviews
- July 21:** Financial Awareness Workshop
- July 21:** Quilting Workshop
- July 23:** Creative Decorating
- July 23:** County Council Officer Training
- July 29:** Financial Awareness Workshop
- July 31:** 4-H Awards Banquet RSVP

## August

- August 3:** West Texas Fair Entry Deadline
- August 6:** Bell County 4-H Awards Banquet
- August 10:** State Fair of Texas Entry Deadline
- August 10:** HOT Fair Entry Deadline
- August 22:** Rabbit Workshop
- August 24:** MAB Meeting
- August 27:** Heifer Validation Tag Orders Due
- August 27:** Lamb & Goat Validation Tag Orders Due

## September

- September 4:** Major Show Broiler Orders Due
- September 8:** 4-H Open House
- September 18:** Swine Validation Tag Orders Due

## October

- October 17:** Hunter's Spectacular
- October 19:** Heifer Validation
- October 20:** Lamb & Goat Validation
- October 27:** Lamb & Goat Validation
- October 31:** Holiday Classic, Belton

# NEWSLETTER

July 2026

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TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION

Bell County Extension  
1605 N. Main, Room 102  
Belton, TX 76513  
**Phone:** (254)-933-5305  
**Fax:** (254)-933-5312

If you need any type of accommodation to participate in these programs or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact the Bell County Extension Office at 254-933-5305 by the listed RSVP dates.

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