



NEWSLETTER



August 2026 Focus

Bell County 4-H Awards Banquet

The annual 4-H Banquet is set for Thursday August 6, 2026 at the Huntington Bank Special Events Room starting at 6:00 pm.
Hope to see you there!

2026-2027 4-H Enrollment

The new 4-H Year starts soon! Please wait until **September 1st** to enroll or re-enroll. We will be using a new enrollment website this year, so we will be learning it together!
<https://tx4h.tamu.edu/>

Hunter's Spectacular

SAVE THE DATE!

The Bell County 4-H fundraiser will take place **Saturday, October 17, 2026!** More information inside the newsletter!



| Quick Links



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



<https://tx4h.tamu.edu/>



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

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.



4-H Enrollment



4-H Enrollment starts soon! All enrollments are done via our new website <https://tx4h.tamu.edu/>. You can access Texas 4-H by going to our 4-H website at <http://agrilife.org/bell4h/>. Since this is a brand new enrollment website, we are requesting that EVERYONE wait until September 1st to enroll.

To maintain the level of programming and opportunities in the Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program, an annual participant fee is implemented for each 4-H member (excluding Clover Kids).

The participant fee is \$25 if enrolled from August 15th to October 31st, November 1st the participant fee will increase to \$30.

Please do not worry if you are still pending at the county level once you have enrolled. The county office will try to keep up as best as we can by approving them at least once a week. As long as you complete your enrollment, you are in the system and good for enrollment and BCYF requirements. Enrollment dues must be paid by an electronic payment.

For instructions on how to enroll, please visit:

<http://agrilife.org/bell4h/4-h-enrollment-guidelines/4-h-enrollment-information/>

All volunteers who enroll will be charged \$10.00. This covers your screening for the year. All volunteers will have to re-enroll each year. Club Managers must enroll ASAP!

If you have further questions, please contact the County Extension Office at: 254-933-5305

4-H Age /Grade Requirements

Texas 4-H membership eligibility will be based on SCHOOL GRADE and not age. The eligibility rules and guidelines are:

Youth may participate in 4-H year from September 1st of grade three through August 31st following completion of grade twelve, with these age restrictions:

Minimum age - 8 (as of August 31, 2026 and in the 3rd grade)

Maximum age - 18 (as of August 31, 2026)

4-H Member Categories

Juniors: Grades 3, 4, and 5

Intermediates: Grades 6, 7, and 8

Seniors: Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12



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.

County Council and Ambassadors



County Council Meeting Dates

Dates and programs have been set for 2026-2027 Bell County Council meetings. These meetings will take place at the Bell County Extension Office starting at 6:00 pm.

Date	Meeting Program	Community Service Projects
September 28	Council Delegates 101 & Dress Code Program	Military Appreciations Cards
November 9	Game Warden or Fire Department	Toy Drive
January 11	Bell County Youth Fair	Sock Collections
March 29	Health or Outdoor Safety	Animal Items Collection
May 10	Council Officer Elections	Crayon Initiative

Military Appreciation Cards

Please note that no donations will be collected this month. At the November County Council meeting, Piper Roland from the County Council Officer Team will provide thank-you cards for all attendees to sign. Following the meeting, Ms. Roland will deliver these cards to the local VA Hospital, where they will be distributed to veterans as a gesture of appreciation for their service. We encourage all members to participate in this meaningful initiative.

Bell County 4-H Ambassadors for Hunter's Spectacular

The Bell County 4-H Ambassadors will be selling the Bonus Draw tickets for a very nice handgun. 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.** 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. You will pick up these tickets from the Bell County Extension Office AND turn in your ticket stubs with payment back into the Extension Office.

4-H Club Managers & Volunteers

Membership Advisory Board FINANCE Meeting

When: August 24th **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.

FCH Project News

FCH Coalition Meeting

When: September 28th **Where:** CEO **Time:** 6:00 pm

Join us for the first meeting of the new 4-H year. Big items on the agenda are the Bell County 4-H Food Show & Food Challenge contest.

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.

Please RSVP to <https://forms.gle/Sgv1xLnJG1CD6qek9>
or with Jennifer.Thompson@ag.tamu.edu or 254-933-5305 NO LATER THAN July 31st!

2026 Clover Kids

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 or
Amanda Robbins - 512-333-2306
bc4hcloverkids@yahoo.com

4-H Open House

SAVE THE DATE! The Bell County 4-H Open House is set for Tuesday, September 8th at the Huntington Bank EXPO, Assembly Hall from 5:00-7:00 pm. Want to have a 4-H Club or Project booth? Sign up for a booth here! <https://forms.gle/nwd1y57bU3gPYrz46>

Ag Mech Informational Meeting

When: August 15th **Where:** Bell CEO **Time:** 8:00-11:00 am

RSVP: to the CEO by August 14th

Learn about choosing projects, how to determine material list, the process of building, etc. You will hear from senior and junior members along with learning how to enter BCYF and Major Livestock Shows.



Livestock Project News



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/Rfgetconnected/exhibitors>

2026 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.



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
(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 20th and October 27th 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 or (254)-933-5305.

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!



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 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 or (254) 933-5305.

Important Dates

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 15: Ag Mech Meeting
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 1: 4-H Enrollment Starts
September 4: Major Show Broiler Orders Due
September 8: 4-H Open House
September 18: Swine Validation Tag Orders Due
September 28: 4-H FCH Coalition Meeting
September 28: County Council Meeting

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

November

November 9: Major Show Entry Deadline
November 9: County Council Meeting

NEWSLETTER

July 2026



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.
