**4-H Blast**

May 15, 2018

* **May 17:** Rockdale Fair Steer Tag-In, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m, Rockdale Fair Park
* **May 21:** Healthy Lifestyles Practice, 6pm, Bea’s Kitchen
* **May 24:** D8 Surge/Leadership Lab Registration/D8 Council Officer Forms Deadline, 4-H Connect
* **May 25:** Boiler Orders Due to Extension Office (4-H members only)
* **May 28:** Healthy Lifestyles Practice
* **May 31:** D8 County Camp Deadline

***Dates for Spring/Summer:***

These are a few dates to please put on your calendar!

* **June 4:** Healthy Lifestyles Practice
* **June 8:** Fun Day Camp, 9am-12pm, Thorndale Park
* **June 11-15:** Texas 4-H Roundup
* **June 18:** Major Validation, see times below, Milam County Livestock Auction
* **June 24-27:** D8 Surge/Leadership Lab, New Braunfels
* **June 28:** Recordbooks and Awards Due to Extension Office
* **June 28:** Club Manager Training, 5:30pm, Bea’s Kitchen
* **June 28:** Recordbook Judging, 6pm, Bea’s Kitchen
* **June 29:** Photography Day Camp, 9am-12pm, Bea’s Kitchen
* **July 6-8:** D8 County Camp
* **July 7:** Lambs, Swine, and Goat Tag In, 7-9am, Rockdale Fair Park
* **July 10, 17, 31:** Playstreets, Cameron Elementary Playground, 11am-1pm
* **July 13-15:** Texas 4-H Dog Show
* **July 19:** Pinterest Day Camp, 8am-12pm, Abiding Savior Lutheran Church-Cameron
* **July 22-26:** Texas 4-H Congress

Many other contests and activities but here is a highlight!!! If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please call or email the Extension Office!

***Rockdale Fair Rules Updated:*** The Rockdale Fair Rules have been updated for 2018 and are posted on the website for viewing: <https://counties.agrilife.org/mc4h/rockdale-fair/> Please get those rules out and put the dates in your calendar!

Boiler ORDERS: All 4-H exhibitors will order their birds through the Extension office. All Ag students should order thru the Ag Science teachers.

These orders are due on **May 25** and the cost is $1.55 per bird with an order of 25 birds per entry. Please do not send Ag teachers to the 4-H office to order. Order forms need to include exhibitors name, phone number and address.

***Shooting Sports Meetings:***

Meetings will be at the New Salem Building at the Rockdale Fair Grounds at 2pm. The format will stay the same with the first meeting being a meeting with shooting after and the second meeting being shooting.

* May 20
* June 10 and 24

***Healthy Lifestyles:*** Do you enjoy working with others and performing skits? Would you like to know how to live a healthier life and make better choices? Then healthy lifestyles is for you! We will begin meeting on Monday's to improve our knowledge in nutrition, food safety, physical activity, skin care, and teen driving safety. Each Monday we will tackle a new category.

For more information about this contest visit <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018-Healthy-Lifestyles-Invitational-Contest-Materials_1.13.17.pdf> and come practice with us!

* May 21 Bea’s Kitchen
* May 28 Gause School TBD
* June 4 Cameron Extension Office, TIME- TBD

***State Water Ambassador:*** The Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors Program provides high school age youth an opportunity to gain advanced knowledge and practice leadership skills related to the science, technology, engineering, and management of water in Texas. Each year, up to (32) individuals are selected to join the Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors Program. Those selected will participate in a summer 4-H2O Youth Leadership Academy. Over the next (12) months, Ambassadors will provide a minimum of (40) hours of service. **Deadline to apply is May 20th.** Registration will open February 19, 2018 @ <https://fs4.formsite.com/state4h/water/index.html> If you are interested in this opportunity, please let the Extension Office know or follow this link above.

***District Leadership Lab/Surge:*** District 8 Surge will be Sunday June 24-Wednesday 27, 2018. It will be held in New Braunfels at T Bar M Resort. The kids will learn from workshops but also spend 1 day at Schlitterbahn. It is a lot of fun! They will also hold officer elections for D8 Officer. If you are interested, please check the website: <https://agrilife.org/d84h/events-and-activities/leadership-lab/> The deadline to run for officer and attend Surge is **May 24th** on 4-H Connect. Once you do attend, the County will reimburse you ½ the fee back. A fee has not been established yet and registration opens on May 7th.

***Texas 4-H Community Service Project:*** The 2017-2018 Texas 4-H Council is encouraging local 4-H clubs to collect new or gently used children and young adult books. The books should be donated back to your local community, schools, libraries, hospitals, etc. We will be collecting the books at the Extension Office then donating them to the different libraries in the community!A presentation will be made during Texas 4-H Roundup announcing the impact made across the state. Collection will be taken from now till **May 31st.** If you want your books to go to a certain location, please put that location on your box when you bring them!

***D8 County Camp:*** will be held **July 6-8th** and the deadline will be **May 31st** for all registration. Please see the website for more information and registration form. <https://counties.agrilife.org/mc4h/4-h-clubs/4-h-camps/>

***Milam County 4-H Day Camps Offered:*** We will be holding 3 day camps this summer! Fun Day Camp will be held **June 8th** and is for Clovers- K-2nd grade and this camp will be at the Thorndale City Park Pavilion. We will be doing a lot of fun relays and water games. Photography Day Camp will be held **June 29** at the Bea’s Kitchen in Cameron from 9am-12pm. The kids will learn about basic photography and how to take the right pictures. Please bring a phone or camera. We will be walking around the courthouse square after the lesson and taking photos. Pinterest Camp (used to be FCS Camp) will be **July 19th** at the Abiding Savior Lutheran Church in Cameron from 8am-12pm. We will be doing some fun activities related to Pinterest at this camp! This is also a new time than last year. Please make sure you call to register for these 3 camps! Lastly, we will be holding the Playstreets family fun days at the Cameron Elementary playground starting **July 10th from 11am-1pm**. Please come and have fun with us! No registering required on Playstreets activities.

***The 2018 4-H Shotgun Day Camp:*** will be held **June 10-13** in Brazos and Burleson counties. The application for the limited youth and adult positions is currently open on 4-H Connect. Information containing more details of the camp and the application procedure are on the website. Also attached is a document referred to within the Day Camp information which is a list of hotels set up on a 4-H block for participants’ use if desired. Please pass this information along to your interested youth and coaches.

***Texas 4-H Outdoor Challenge:*** Registration is now open on 4-H Connect for the 2018 Texas 4-H Outdoor Challenge! New to 2018 - registration is limited to the first 50 complete teams (100 youth). Registration is scheduled to close **May 30**, but may close sooner if it fills. The contest will be held on June 22-24 at the Seguin Outdoor Learning Center. This flyer and the Outdoor Challenge Rules and Resource Guide can be found in the “Contest” section of this page:

<https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/outdoor-education-living-skills/>

 The 10 events for 2018 are:

• Shotgun

• Off-road Biking

• Archery

• Fishing

• Climbing

• Kayaking

• Rifle

• Biologist Skills

• Gear Judging

• Outdoor Safety

There are a few changes to this year’s rules, which have been highlighted in the Outdoor Challenge Rules and Resource Guide.

***Major Validation:*** Major Show Validation for State Fair of Texas as well as 2018-2019 Steer Validation has been set for **Monday, June 18, 2018.**

Validation will be held at the Milam County Livestock Auction. 2605 Auction Barn Street. Cameron, TX. 76520

We will begin that morning at 6:30am with swine validation to keep hogs from getting too hot. From there we will move on to Sheep and Goat Validation, followed by Steer and Heifer Validation.

As always, Spring Validation is a busy day. We expect around 25 Hogs, 20 Sheep and Goats, and approximately 120 Steers and Heifers. So cooperation and patience is asked of all who attend. We will have paperwork that will be ready for you to fill out when you arrive. Having this completed will help speed the day along tremendously.

If you or your exhibitor is not able to attend validation. It is important that you either come by the Extension office and fill out the necessary validation paperwork ahead of time or sign an indemnity/parental waver form. This can be done anytime 2 weeks before validation June 4-15.

If you have any questions comments or concerns please feel free to contact our office any time 8:00 – 5:00 Monday through Friday.

***Milam County 4-H Awards:*** The Milam County 4-H Awards are now up on the website and will be due **June 28th** at the County Extension Office. Award interviews will be held **August 9th** at the Extension Office. Work on those applications soon! <https://counties.agrilife.org/mc4h/4-h-clubs/awards/> Some require recordbooks and some do not.

***Milam County 4-H Information!*** For information about any 4-H related activity, please go to the website or facebook page! www.Join4-h.com or www.facebook.com/milamcountyfourH

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. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating