**4-H Blast**

September 19, 2018

[www.join4h.com](http://www.join4h.com)

* **September 21:** One Day 4-H Tshirt Orders Due, Online
* **September 24:** Baked Goods Deadline, Rockdale Fair
* **September 28-October 21:** State Fair of Texas
* **October 4-13:** Heart of Texas Fair and Rodeo
* **October 3rd:** Pig Scramble Entry Form Due
* **October 6:** Texas 4-H Aggieland Day
* **October 7-13:** National 4-H Week
* **October 13-20:** Rockdale Fair Week

***New 4-H Year:*** The new 4-H year has started on **September 1st**. To re-enroll or join 4-H, please see our website: <http://counties.agrilife.org/mc4h/4-h-enrollmentguidelines/> This link will show you the steps to join as well as many important items for the 4-H year! Join us for 4-H fun! Our new club leaders and club information will be posted soon! NOTE: Please make sure you enroll ASAP because you will not receive the 4-H Blasts until you re-enroll!

***4-H Facebook:*** Don’t forget we have a 4-H Facebook page!!!! We post 4-H Blasts, 4-H contest results and neat opportunities to do in 4-H! Make sure that you “see us first” in your settings. Step 1: Like the Page, Step 2: Click on Following, Step 3: See First, Step 4: Turn Notifications ON! Then you will see all 4-H posts when they arrive!

***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! There is a lot of great things going on at the Rockdale Fair!!!!

Dates to Remember:

**September 24th:** Baked Goods Deadline

**October 3rd:** Pig Scramble Entry Form Due (RULES on website)

Baked Goods for Auction:

Junior youth - 3rd grade ages 8 or 9 – 13 years of age and Senior youth – ages 14 – 18 by the day of the show **October 13th, 2018** who are 4-H and/or FFA members. Exhibitors may enter one item in each of the following categories – Cakes, Pies, and (6) Cookies. No items requiring refrigeration may be entered. No decorations on cakes or pies. Garnishments are accepted (pecans, coconut, etc.). Cream

Cheese icing IS also accepted. Complete Rockdale Fair Auction Baked Foods Division Entry Form. Entry form with fees must be submitted to Rockdale Fair Association

PO Box 1582, Rockdale, TX 76567. Entry forms must be postmarked no later than **September 24th, 2018.** No late entries accepted. See the website for a full list of the rules!

Home Economics Division:

Rockdale Fair Home Economic Division and Auction Baked Goods Rules are posted on the website! Rockdale Fair Home Economics Division activities will once again be back at the New Salem Building on the fair grounds and happen at the beginning of the week. Check-in for the non-food Home Economics Division starts on Monday, **October 15, 2018** and all other entries including food will continue check in on **Tuesday, October 16, 2018** until noon, and check out will be Wednesday, **October 17, 2018**, from 6-7pm along with pictures at 5:30pm. There are a lot of changes in the rules so please make sure you look them over. *Some exciting and new awards and categories*!!!

A Welcome Party/Exhibitor Kick-Off will be held **October 17th, at 5:30pm**, at the Rockdale Fairgrounds. They will have Free T-shirts for all exhibitors, free hot dog dinner for exhibitors, family night at the carnival, pick up exhibitor passes, and you may bring all your tack, feed, signage, stalls, etc. (no animals). Pig scramble will start at 7pm. Sponsored by Texas Farm Bureau Insurance

***National 4-H Week:***

National 4-H Week is set for **October 7-13, 2018**. National 4-H Week is a great week to celebrate all the wonderful things that 4-H has to offer in the nation, state, county and club! Milam County 4-H has a large variety of activities for National 4-H Week:

**Tuesday, October 9, 2018**, we would like EVERYONE to wear green or a 4-H T-shirt to celebrate National 4-H Week! Show your PRIDE of 4-H!

**Monday-Friday**, we are asking all 4-H members to make some bake goods and take them to the local businesses, Firehouses, Hospitals, Nursing Homes, or Schools and let them know how much you appreciate their help in our community. Make sure and let them know it is National 4-H Week. A list of our local sponsors can be found on the website!

On **October 13th** 4-H members throughout the State of Texas will be participating in many different community service projects. The idea of the One Day project is to get as many 4-H members, parents, and leaders involved in community service projects, giving them an opportunity to say “Thanks” to the state for their support of Texas 4-H for the past 109 years. See below an opportunity to help on One Day 4-H!!! Also shirt orders for One Day 4-H are due September 21st.

***One Day 4-H Tshirts:*** If your club will be participating in One Day 4-H, please make sure you order your One Day 4-H Tshirt by Friday, **September 21st.** Here is the link:[***https://secure.touchnet.com/C21490\_ustores/web/classic/product\_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=10566***](https://secure.touchnet.com/C21490_ustores/web/classic/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=10566)

You do not have to do One Day 4-H to buy a shirt and they are only $10!

Opportunity to help at One Day 4-H:

Saturday, **October 13** is One Day 4H

Our one day 4-H activity will be helping with Steaktoberfest

Please make plans to come out and help!

We will have 3 different shifts available

for you to get involved...please see link to sign up:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1yE4z_0w1X971wjv8rCUFnIfAgHE_DgYPkiAfQITu0Js/edit?usp=sharing>

There will be more details to come…

\*\* Parents, please make sure you stick around to help. This is a Family 4-H Project.\*\*

***Quality Counts:*** NEW!!! The newly updated Quality Counts system is now available to 4-H livestock exhibitors. The new curriculum has been designed to better equip our youth livestock exhibitors with the most relevant and timely information related to the livestock project area. Focused on quality assurance and character education, Quality Counts is designed to teach young people the importance of displaying good character in carrying out livestock projects, and in every aspect of their lives.

\*\*There is a very important one-pager attached with detailed instructions of how students should enroll/login to the course, please go to the website for those instructions: <https://counties.agrilife.org/mc4h/4-h-livestock-projects/>

ALL EXHIBITORS will need to re-certify under the new system if you plan to show a livestock project at any Major livestock show in Texas.

***Looking Ahead….***

Here are some major events happening in the fall months. This is not all the dates so please keep posted on more as we go forward!

**October 23:** Consumer Meeting, 6pm, Bea’s Kitchen

**October 23:** Heifer Validation, Major Shows

**October 25:** Sheep and Goat Validation, Major Shows

**November 3-4:** Holiday Classic

**November 26:** Holiday Gift Idea

**December 12:** District Food Show

***Consumer Meetings:***

The 4-H Consumer Project is a great life skill to have. The contests are open to 3rd grade-12th grade. Below are the practice and contest dates. Please email Micah (mlholcombe@ag.tamu.edu) to be added to the consumer email list.

* Practices:
	+ October 23, 6-8pm (Tuesday)- Orientation ALL- BEA’s Kitchen
	+ October 30, 6-8pm (Tuesday)- FUNDRAISER MONEY/FORMS DUE-Bea’s Kitchen
	+ November 7, 5-7pm (Wednesday)- Juniors- Bea’s Kitchen

***Major Heifer Validation:***

Heifer Validation for the 2019 show year will be **October 23, 2018** at the Milam County YEB

Price will be $10.00 per heifer. Heifers previously validated will not need to attend.

***Major Sheep & Goat Validation:*** Major sheep and goat validation for Spring Major Shows will be Thursday **October 25th** 2018 at the Milam County YEB. This is not MCJLS Sheep and Goat tag in. However, if you are a family that is validating sheep or goats for major shows and will be validating a MCJLS only sheep or goat project, you may bring it to tag along with your Major Show projects.

***Holiday Classic:*** The clinic is **November 3-4, 2018** at the Bell County Expo. It is FREE!!!! Open to all youth in grades 3-12th. Please see the 4-H AG website for more information! The Holiday Classic Clinics and Prospect Shows are intended to provide an educational opportunity for new families participating in the livestock project area. The main purpose is to teach the basic principles of livestock management as they relate to facility maintenance, selection, nutrition, animal health, handling, showmanship, and transportation.

***Holiday Gift Idea:***

On **November 26th** the Holiday Gift Idea Exchange will be held at Bea’s Kitchen in Cameron from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m. You will see a variety of demonstrations, get handouts with instructions for the projects and enjoy refreshments and door prizes. Everyone is welcome at the program. Come to the Holiday Gift Idea Exchange on November 26 and get new ideas for the holiday season.

4-H Members: (Kindergarten-12th grade) bring a Holiday Craft or Food and demonstrate it to the audience!

A booklet with all instructions will be given out! 4-H members are also asked to bring a second item of the same to give for door prize! Deadline to email instructions to the County Extension Office: **November 16th**, Email: mlholcombe@ag.tamu.edu (google drive: micahholcombe6@gmail.com) with instructions. **PLEASE BRING A CAN GOOD FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE!!!!!**

***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