**4-H Blast**

September 5, 2018

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

* **September 5th:** Rabbit Tag In, 5:30-7:30pm, Home Demo Building (New Salem Bldg), Rockdale Fair Park
* **September 5th:** Broiler Pickup, 5:30-7:30pm, Home Demo Building (New Salem Bldg), Rockdale Fair Park
* **September 9:** 4-H Banquet, 3 pm, Peace Lutheran Church, Rockdale
* **September 14:** Spring Major Show Swine Tags
* **September 14:** Rabbit Extravaganza Deadline, 4-H Connect
* **September 15:** Spring Major Show Swine Tags Payment Deadline
* **September 15:** Texas 4-H Rabbit Extravaganza, Bell County Expo
* **September 24:** Baked Goods Deadline, Rockdale Fair

***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!

***Rabbit Extravaganza: GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN ABOUT RABBITS!!!!*** We are proud to announce the 2018 Texas 4-H Rabbit Extravaganza. The Extravaganza is a State-wide competition open to enrolled Texas 4-H members of official 4-H age. The Extravaganza will include: a single Youth Rabbit Show, Youth Skill Contests, Art & Crafts, and Educational Workshops on the 4-H Rabbit Project. It will be held Saturday, **September 15th** at the Bell County Expo. Deadline to register is **September 14th**.

***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! Please also check out the Home Economics Rules and as well as Pig Scramble! There is a lot of great things going on at the Rockdale Fair!!!!

Dates to Remember:

**September 5th:** Rabbit Tag In, 5:30-7:30pm, Home Demo Building (New Salem Bldg), Rockdale Fair Park

**September 5th:** Broiler Pickup, 5:30-7:30pm, Home Demo Building (New Salem Bldg), Rockdale Fair Park

**September 24th:** Baked Goods Deadline

***4-H Banquet:***

Please save the date for the 4-H Banquet to be held **September 9, 2018**, at the Rockdale Peace Lutheran Church and Fellowship Hall which is located at 303 Meadow Drive, Rockdale, TX 76567. We will be will be awarding our 4-H members who have achieved their goals this past 4-H year and recognize our 4-H sponsors and leaders. We will have light refreshments and enjoy company, so save the date!

***2019 Spring Major Show Swine Tags:*** *(FWSSR, San Angelo, San Antonio, Houston, Austin*)

* **$18.00** per head ordered **August 21 – September 14**
* **$21.00** per head ordered After**September 15**

HOGS VALIDATED FOR THE 2018 STATE FAIR OF TEXAS WILL HAVE TO BE RE-VALIDATED FOR THE 2019 SPRING/WINTER MAJOR SHOWS. STATE FAIR OF TEXAS SWINE VALIDATION TAGS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AT THE SPRING/WINTER MAJOR SHOWS.

Please contact Milam County Extension Office at 254-697-7045 or email Floyd at floyd.ingram@ag.tamu.edu to place orders. Payment Deadline for all tag orders will be **Friday, September 14, 2018** by 5:00pm

***Quality Counts:*** 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.

***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: (LOCATIONS TBA and Dates are subject to change):
	+ 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
	+ November 13, 6-8pm (Tuesday)- Intermediates- Cameron Chamber Mtg Room
	+ November 28, 5-7pm (Wednesday) – Seniors-Bea’s Kitchen
	+ December 5, 5-7pm (Wednesday)- ALL- Bea’s Kitchen
	+ December 11, 6-8pm (Tuesday)- ALL- Cameron Chamber Mtg Room
	+ January 9, 5-7pm (Wednesday)- ALL- Bea’s Kitchen
	+ January 15, 6-8pm (Tuesday)- ALL-Bea’s Kitchen
	+ January 15, 6-8pm (Tuesday)- ALL- Bea’s Kitchen
	+ January 22, 6-8pm (Tuesday)- Intermediates/Seniors- Bea’s Kitchen
	+ January 30, 4-7pm (Wednesday)- County Contest- ALL REQUIRED- Bea’s Kitchen
	+ February 6, 5-7pm (Wednesday)- ALL REVIEW- Bea’s Kitchen
	+ February 15, 2pm (Friday)- TARGET San Antonio
	+ February 26, 6-8pm (Tuesday)- ALL REVIEW- Bea’s Kitchen- TENTATIVE
* Fundraiser:
	+ October 1: Start Fundraiser
	+ October 30: End Fundraiser
	+ November 19: Deliver Date
* Contests:
	+ October 6- HOT Consumer Contest
	+ January 30- County Contest
	+ February 16- San Antonio
	+ February 23- District
	+ March- Navarro Consumer Contest

***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!

**September 28-October 21:** State Fair of Texas

**October 4-13:** Heart of Texas Fair and Rodeo

**October 7-13:** National 4-H Week

**October 13-20:** Rockdale Fair Week

**November 3-4:** Holiday Classic

**November 26:** Holiday Gift Idea

**December 12:** District Food Show

***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