**4-H Blast**

December 19, 2018

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

* **December 24 and 25:** Office Closed
* **January 4-6:** Teen Retreat, Brownwood
* **January 7:** Texas 4-H Scholarship 1st Draft Due
* **January 9:** Consumer Practice (all ages), 5pm, Bea’s Kitchen
* **January 9:** Deadline for BIG Youth Workshop, call Extension Office
* **January 15:** Consumer Practice (all ages), 6pm, Bea’s Kitchen
* **January 15:** BIG Youth Workshop, Waco
* **January 16:** County Council/Recordbook Training, 5:30pm, Gause Library

***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!

***Little River Basin Master Gardeners Seeking Members for New Class:*** The Master Gardener Program is an educational/volunteer program offered by Texas AgriLife Extension. The program is designed to increase the availability of horticultural information and improve the quality of life with horticultural projects throughout the county. Participants receive 50 hours of training. Upon successful completion of the training and volunteering for 50 hours, participants will become certified Texas Master Gardeners.

Start Date: January 9, 2019

How Often: Every Wednesday, 8:45 am – 12 noon

Graduation: May 15, 2019

Class Location: Cameron, Texas

Course Fee: $175 (includes manual, handouts, tours)

Registration open: CALL EXTENSION OFFICE NOW! (Deadline is passed but need more to sign up!)

***High School Seniors:*** Please make sure you are completing your FAFSA and working on college and scholarship applications!!!!

Texas 4-H Scholarship Deadlines:

November 2018 – January 2019: Applicant complete FAFSA

**January 7, 2019**: First Draft Due to County Office

**January 28, 2019**: Final Application Due to County Office

**February 1, 2019**: County Review and 4-H Connect Approval Deadline\*

**February 15, 2019**: District Review and 4-H Connect Approval Deadline\*

**April 12, 2019**: Interview selection notification

**May 3-5, 2019**: Interviews in College Station (MUST BE PRESENT)

**June 11-13, 2019**: Awards Assembly in College Station (MUST BE PRESENT)

\*The status of “APPROVED” on 4-H CONNECT simply means that the information was submitted. It does not indicate eligibility or awarding of a scholarship.

Link to Scholarship documents: <https://texas4hfoundation.org/what-we-do/#opportunity-scholarships>

***BIG Youth Workshop:***

There will be a youth session at the 2019 Blackland Income Growth Conference. The event is titled “BIG Tomorrow’s Leaders Youth Workshop,” and it will be on **Tuesday, January 15, 2019** from 9:00 am – 1:30 pm at the Waco Convention Center located at 100 Washington Avenue in Waco. There is no cost to attend and lunch is included! The target audience is 4-H and FFA members in grades 7-12. We are inviting you to bring your ag classes, family and consumer science classes, and/or 4-H clubs to this program.

**PLEASE CONTACT THE EXTENSION OFFICE BEFORE JAN 9TH IF YOU PLAN TO GO!!!!! 254-697-7045- Must have adult to go as chaperone.**

You may find the full program brochure on the BIG Conference website at https://stephenville.tamu.edu/blackland-income-growth/2019-57th-annual-big-conference/.

9:00 – 9:15 am – Check-in

9:15 – 9:30 am – Welcome & Message from our sponsors

9:30 – 10:30 am – Russell Devorsky, Heart of Texas Council of Government (Youth Leadership)

10:30 – 10:45 am – Break

10:45 – 11:45 am – Texas Farm Bureau – Connecting Agriculture and Health

11:45 – 12:00 pm – Break and walk to luncheon area

12:00 – 1:30 pm – Scholarship Luncheon, Speaker Dr. Dan Hale

Additional conference info: <https://stephenville.tamu.edu/blackland-income-growth/2019-57th-annual-big-conference/>

***MCJLS DATES TO REMEMBER:***

***MCJLS- March 28-30, 2019***

* Mkt. Bunnies will be tattooed: **February 25,** 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. (subject to change).
* Mkt. Turkey: Order from Teacher/Agent. See Rule F1

Entry NIGHTS:

* Wednesday, **February 11th:** Rockdale General Store Meeting Room
* Tuesday, **February 12th**: Thorndale Ag Science Building
* Monday, **February 25th**: Cameron
* All entries must be received by secretary no later than February 25, 2019. After February 25, late entries will be accepted until March 28th for an ADDITIONAL $100.00 per entry.

***County Council/Club Manager Meeting Dates:***

County Council will kick back in gear in January! The following are the dates for County Council:

**Wednesday, January 16th**, 5:30pm, Gause School Library (Recordbook Training)

Feb/March- NO MEETINGS, Stock Shows and Contest Preparations

**Monday, April 15th**, 5:30pm, Thorndale Sr Citizens Center (Teen Issues/Driving- Healthy Ambassadors give presentation)

**Monday, May 20th**, 5:30pm Cameron, Bea’s Kitchen (Officer Election)

**Tuesday, June 25th**, 5:30pm, Cameron, Bea’s Kitchen (Club Manager Training, Recordbook Judging)

Please mark your calendars to join us for these meetings!!!!

***Teen Leadership Retreat:*** Registration has opened for Teen Retreat, **January 4-6, 2019**. 4-H youth currently in 7th through 12th grade can register to attend. Agents, specialist, and former summer staff will lead educational sessions covering the topics of; Survival Guide to Turning 18, STEM, Teambuilding, and Advocacy. To register go to texas4hcenter.tamu.edu and click on “Register Now”.

***National 4-H Conference:*** The application for National 4-H Conference is now open on 4HConnect. Conference is scheduled for **April 6-11, 2019** at the National 4-H Conference Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland just outside of Washington DC. National 4-H Conference is a working conference in which youth and adults, at the invitation of the Secretary of Agriculture, assist in the development of recommendations to help guide 4-H Youth Development programs nationally and in local communities. There is no fee for a member to apply. However, a fee of $2,000 will be due for members selected to participate by **February 4, 2019**.

***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