**4-H Blast**

March 4, 2020

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

* **~~March 4:~~** ~~Consumer Practice, 5:30pm, Bea’s Kitchen (JUNIORS ONLY)-~~ CANCELED
* **March 7:** Plant ID Houston Contest
* **March 16:** Consumer Practice, 5:30pm, Bea’s Kitchen
* **March 16:** County/District/State Photography Contest Deadline EXTENDED
* **March 16:** State 4-H Awards DUE
* **March 16:** Rockdale 4-H Meeting (New Meeting Date)
* **March 17:** Ag Product ID Field Trip to Thorndale Meat Market-5:00 pm
* **March 18:** Ag Product ID Field Trip to HEB, Houston, 5pm
* **March 19:** Ag Product ID Houston Stock Show Contest
* **March 20:** Eligibility forms due to office for MCJLS
* **March 20:** Texas 4-H Congress Press Corps and Lobbyists Applications due, 4-H Connect
* **March 22:** Shooting Sports Practice, 2pm, New Salem Building- Rockdale
* **March 25-28:** MCJLS, Cameron
* **March 30:** Ag Product ID Practice-Cameron-4:30, County Extension Office
* **March 30:** Thorndale 4-H Meeting, 7pm, Thorndale Chamber (New Meeting Date)
* **March 31:** Ag Product ID Practice-Thorndale-5:30, Mrs Ramthun’s Room- Thorndale HS
* **April 1:** Texas 4-H Roundup National Anthem Audition Deadline
* **April 3:** District Plant ID and Ag Product ID- Tarleton
* **April 4:** District Horse Judging Contest
* **April 4:** RFA Commercial Heifers: 8:00 am to 10:00, Tag-in at Milam County Auction Barn
* **April 5:** Shooting Sports Meeting and Practice, 2pm, New Salem Building- Rockdale
* **April 11:** Coryell County Invitational Plant ID Contest, Gatesville
* **April 14:** Ag in the Classroom
* **April 14:** Consumer Practice, 5:30pm, Bea’s Kitchen
* **April 15:** County Council Meeting, 5:30pm, Thorndale Chamber (officer elections)
* **April 15-May 15:** Outdoor Challenge Registration, limited space-register now, 4-H Connect
* **April 19:** Shooting Sports Practice, 2pm, New Salem Building- Rockdale
* **April 24:** RFA Turkey Orders- order through RFA
* **April 24-26:** 4-H Scholarship Interviews, College Station
* **April 29:** Recordbook Workshop, 5:30pm, County Extension Office
* **May 1:** Healthy Texas Ambassadors Applications Due, County Extension Office
* **May 2:** District 4-H Roundup, Riesel High School (more info coming soon)
* **May 13:** RFA Steers: 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., Tag-in at Rockdale Fair Park
* **May 22:** RFA Broiler Orders: Order through RFA
* **May 22:** Deadline for State Entomology Contest

***More summer dates to come soon!!!!***

* **June 5:** 4-H Clover Kid Fun Day Camp
* **June 8-12:** Texas 4-H Roundup
* **June 17-19:** District 8 Surge (Leadership Lab) and District Council Officer Elections
* **June 22:** Recordbooks and Awards Due
* **June 23:** Club Manager Training, 5:30pm, Bea’s Kitchen
* **June 23:** County Recordbook Judging (Awards and Recordbooks due for parents that judge), 6pm, Bea’s Kitchen
* **June 26-28:** Southeast District County Camp, Palestine
* **July 9:** District 4-H Recordbook Judging

***GOOD LUCK and CONGRATS to all of our 4-H members competing at Major Shows this year!***

***ENROLLMENT!!!*** Please sign up then! [www.join4h.com](http://www.join4h.com) Tell your friends to sign up!!! 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!

***Eligibility Form:*** **If you show at MCJLS or ANY MAJOR SHOW, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO DO AN ELIGIBILITY FORM!!!!** **Forms need to be at the Extension Office NO LATER than March 20th for MCJLS**!

Please make sure that you are completing your eligibility forms before you go to the show or a contest. You will NOT be able to show unless you have enrolled online AND have a completed eligibility form. You must have them signed yourself and sent to the school and the school will send us your signed form if eligible.

How to fill out a form:

1. USE DARK INK!!!
2. Information Only or Absence from school: please check if you are missing school or not.
3. Activity: this is the show or contest you are competing in- such as: Ft. Worth Stock Show, District Roundup, District 4-H Consumer Contest, San Antonio Livestock Show, etc.
4. Date: This is the date of the contest and the days you will be out, NOT today’s date that you are filling it out
5. Signature of Parent/Guardian: This is the person who takes care of you not the parent or person taking you to the contest.
6. I hereby certify that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (This is the 4-H member…fill in the name of the person who needs eligibility completed)
7. Date- Fill out the CURRENT date- that is today’s date that you are filling out the form.
8. Below- this is for the school not for you. Please do not fill it out!
9. This is one form per activity so make sure you fill out for each activity. NOTE: If the activity is on the same day and you are doing 2 activities within that contest then one is enough. Example: Showing Rabbits and Poultry at MCJLS.

***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!

***Thorndale Meeting Change:***

Next Meeting: **Monday, March 30th, 7pm** at the Thorndale Chamber

They will be preparing for the community wide Easter Egg hunt so please bring candy and Easter eggs to stuff for the event.

Community Easter Egg Hunt: Saturday, April 11th at Rieger Park

Setup at 9:30 am; Hunt begins at 10 am.

***Consumer Project Meetings:***

**Here is a list of all the consumer meeting dates.** ALL MEETINGS will be from 5:30-7pm other than County Contests.  ALL MEETINGS will be at Bea’s Kitchen.

* **~~March 4- Wednesday (JUNIORS ONLY)-~~ CANCELED**
* March 16- Monday
* April 14- Tuesday
* April 8- Wednesday

***4-H Shooting Sports:*** A list of the shooting sports meetings are below and will be held at the New Salem Clubhouse in Rockdale (on the Rockdale Fairgrounds) at 2pm. They will be practicing air rifle and archery. Come and learn about this project!!!!

* March 22
* April 5
* April 19

***County Council Meetings:***

County Council will be holding meetings for the spring! Don’t forget to put these dates on your calendar!

**April 15, 5:30pm**- Thorndale Chamber (Program: Officer Elections)

Upcoming service activity: February Valentines Party- we will be holding a Valentine’s Party for residents at the Nursing Home. The date will be February 17th. More information to follow!

***MCJLS DATES TO REMEMBER:***

***MCJLS- March 25-28, 2020***

***Rockdale Fair Rules Updated:***

The Rockdale Fair Rules for 2020 have been updated on the website and there are some MAJOR changes! Please look ASAP!!! <https://counties.agrilife.org/mc4h/rockdale-fair/> PLEASE READ ALL RULES FOR DATES AND DEADLINES! Here are the major livestock dates!!! More rules for baked goods and Home Economics will be available soon!

1. Commercial Heifers: **April 4, 2020**, 8:00 am to 10:00, Tag-in at Milam County Auction Barn, Cameron; Palpation and Body Condition Scoring: **Oct. 3, 2020**, 8:00 to 10:00 a.m., Milam County Auction Barn Cameron
2. Steers: **May 13, 2020**, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., Tag-in at Rockdale Fair Park
3. Lambs, Swine & Goats: **July 11, 2020**, 7:00 to 9:00 a.m., Rockdale Fair Park
4. Rabbits: **September 10, 2020**, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., Home Demonstration Building, Rockdale Fair Park
5. Broilers: Order through RFA, by **May 22**, pick-up **September 4**, Home Demonstration Bldg., Rockdale Fair Park, 5: 30 to 7:00 p.m. Cost per broiler: $1.74
6. Turkey: Order through RFA, by **April 24**, pick-up **June 17**, Home Demonstration Bldg., Rockdale Fair Park, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., Cost per turkey: $6.25
7. Breeding Beef Heifer entries postmarked and due **September 10, 2020**

***Ag Product ID Practices:***

Below are the upcoming dates for practices and contests.  All Monday practices will be held at the Extension Office in Cameron and Tuesday practices will be held in Mrs. Ramthun's Classroom at Thorndale High School. We are planning to visit Brookshire Brothers and the Thorndale Meat Market for some hands-on learning.  If you have not already done so, please let Cindy Widner know what contest you are planning to attend. Entries are due very soon.

**AG ID Schedule**

Tuesday, March 17th-Trip to Thorndale Meat Market-5:00pm

Wednesday, March 18th- Trip to HEB, Houston, 5:00pm

**Thursday, March 19th-Houston AG Product ID Contest**

Monday, March 30th-Practice-Cameron-4:30

Tuesday, March 31st-Practice-Thorndale-5:30

**Friday, April 3rd-District 8 AG Product Contest-Tarleton**

***County/District Photography Contest:*** If you are interested in participating in the County and District Photography Contest, please see the website for more information: <https://counties.agrilife.org/mc4h/projects/photography-contests/> Deadline to enter on 4-H Connect is **March 16th-DEADLINE EXTENDED**. Entry fee per photo is $5.

***District Roundup:***

Roundup is not a roundup of cows but rather a Roundup of all sorts of 4-H talent and speaking opportunities! There is public speaking, educational presentations, and Share the Fun Talent. If you are interested in any of these and want to participate in the 4-H Roundup on May 2nd at District, please see website for forms and information: <http://counties.agrilife.org/mc4h/projects/roundup-contest/>

Entries due: **April 13th**

Eligibilty forms due: **April 24th**

District Roundup: **May 2nd**

***Entomology:*** Are you interested in collecting bug? We have the project for you! This is a SELF-GUIDED project and we have information on the contest. For more information, you can visit <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/entomology/> \*NEW\* this year, the contest is separate from Texas 4-H Roundup Registration. Registration will be through 4-H CONNECT on **May 1 – May 22, 2020**. Cost is $10. Collections will need to be physically brought to College Station on Tuesday, June 9th and turned in at the HEEP Center, Room 411 by 10 am. Awards will be announced during the Entomology Identification Awards ceremony the afternoon of Wednesday, June 10th. 4-H members do not need to be present but must make arrangements to have their collections delivered/picked up for the contest. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top 4 entries per age division.

The contest is open to Junior, Intermediates and Seniors. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top 4 entries per age division. Additional awards may be provided if sponsorship is available.

***Milam Touch of Love Service Project:*** We will be having a monthly collection of items for the Milam Touch of Love Animal Shelter. You can drop your items off at the Extension Office, Cameron 4-H Club Meeting. Items needed:

* Dog food (any kind)
* Cat Food (any kind)
* Collars
* Leashes
* Dog and Cat toys
* Blankets
* Hanging water bowls
* Clorox bleach
* Monetary donations for spaying and neutering

***Rainbow Room Service Project:*** Rainbow Rooms are 24/7 resource centers usually located within local Child Protective Services (CPS) offices. In the Rainbow Room, CPS caseworkers can get supplies for children who are victims of abuse or neglect- clothing, school supplies, diapers, and much more.

We are collecting supplies for the Rainbow Room Wish List. Here are the wish list top 6 items. New items are the only things excepted. Items can be also dropped off at the Extension Office.

* Carseats
* Pack ‘n’ Play Portable Play Yards
* Toys and Children’s Books
* Household cleaning supplies
* Diapers-all sizes
* New Children’s clothing

Thanks Colby Green for organizing this County Service Project.

***State 4-H Volunteer Awards:*** The 2020 4-H Volunteer Recognition Packet is available on the websites below. Nominations are now being accepted now through **Monday, March 16, 2020** for the Salute to Excellence recognition luncheon scheduled for Wednesday, June 10 during the 2020 Texas 4-H Roundup.

Nominations are now open online through Formsite to **recognize volunteers, donors and AgriLife Extension staff/personnel** for their continued commitment to the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program. These can be supporters (individuals, couples, businesses, organizations) who assist at the county, district, regional, or state level. The six recognition categories are:

• Leader Legacy

• Citation for Outstanding Service

• 4-H Alumni

• Commendable Service

• Meritorious Service

• Salute to Excellence

ONLINE FORMSITE SUBMISSION LINK: <https://fs4.formsite.com/state4h/form226/form_login.html>

Texas 4-H website Awards & Recognition page: <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/awards/>

(Volunteer Recognition Packet and previous winners will be posted on the website soon.)

***State 4-H Shirts for SALE:*** The TAE4-HA Gives two, $3,000 scholarships at Texas 4-H Roundup. We have launched a t-shirt fundraiser. <https://www.facebook.com/tae4ha/photos/a.403038759906157/1244942415715783/?type=3&theater>

***Texas 4-H Roundup National Anthem Audition:***

Calling all 4-H alumni, current 4-H members and Clover Kids! Help us Embrace the Past, Empower the Present and Envision the Future at the 2020 Texas 4-H Roundup.

This year Texas 4-H Council would like to highlight 4-H from past to present. On Tuesday, that are looking for a 4-H Alumni to sing the National Anthem. Then on Wednesday a current Intermediate or Senior age 4-H member would perform. They would like to close the week featuring a Junior 4-H member or Clover kid.

See attached graphic to share and promote this opportunity.

To apply, visit the FormSite link at <https://fs4.formsite.com/state4h/2020NationalAnthem/index.html>

DEADLINE is **Wednesday, April 1**

Information for the applicant is below.

• All submissions MUST BE POSTED to YouTube. You may set your video as unlisted (not private) to ensure privacy of your video which will allow only those with the link to view the upload.

• Entries may be submitted on an individual basis or as a group.

• Groups cannot be made up of more than five (5) members.

• Individuals/teams selected will be announced the week of April 27th

• Open to 4-H Alumni, Clover kids and current 4-H members.

• 4-H member does not have to be a contest participant of Texas 4-H Roundup.

• Singing must be in a cappella style (no music).

• If selected to sing during Texas 4-H Roundup, performance will be done a cappella.

• Videos will be evaluated by a panel of judges.

• If selected to sing participants must be registered on 4-H CONNECT for the event.

• Tuesday night will feature a 4-H Alumni. Wednesday night will feature an Intermediate or Senior age 4-H member. Thursday night will feature a Clover kid or Junior 4-H member.

***2020-2021 Texas 4-H Council Delegate At Large:***

Do you want to be a Texas State Council Delegate At Large! For more information, visit: <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/ambassadors> and will be listed under Texas 4-H Council.

***2020-20201 Healthy Texas Ambassador:***

Are you looking for ways to expand your program? Looking for ways to improve the health and lives of youth and adults? Do you have teens in your county who are looking to make a difference in their health and the health of others? If so, the HEALTHY TEXAS YOUTH AMBASSADOR PROGRAM is the perfect opportunity for them to become trained in health, wellness, and safety while helping you grow your local program efforts!

Eligibility requirements include:

• Be in at least the 9th grade at beginning of the 2020-2021 school year

• Submit completed application to the local county extension office by ***May 1, 2020***

***For Handbook and application go to:*** [***https://drive.google.com/file/d/1no5Y9N8VtZdFOGVVjUAgaipJLG0HekYC/view?usp=sharing***](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1no5Y9N8VtZdFOGVVjUAgaipJLG0HekYC/view?usp=sharing)

• Have an interest and passion to serve others in the area of health education which includes nutrition, physical activity, passenger safety, and safe environments!

What does the program entail?

After youth are accepted to the local program, they must fulfill the following obligations:

• Complete and report 40\* hours of leadership, program efforts, or community service annually. \*This is a reduction in previous hours to be consistent with other ambassador programs.

• Attend a Regional Healthy Texas Youth Ambassador Summit in a location nearest to them.

• Attend face-to-face and online trainings

• Remain academically eligible.

• Must agree to the obligations and requirements outlined in the HT Youth Ambassador Handbook.

• Ambassadorship is a 12-month commitment, beginning June 2020. Ambassadors who fulfill the minimum (40) hours of service will be invited to reapply for the following year. New and returning ambassadors MUST complete a new application annually.

• To meet all commitments for which the Ambassador volunteers and to complete those commitments with excellence.

For more detailed description of requirements and expectations, agents should review the 2020-21 Healthy Texas Youth Ambassador Handbook.

***Apply for Press Corps and Lobbyist Positions at Texas 4-H Congress:***

Are you excited for Texas 4-H Congress? A time to learn about the Texas legislative process by participating in the process! With "real" bills, a governor, a House, and a Senate, don't miss your chance to hold a special position as a Lobbyist or Press Corps member. Lobbyists may only be senior 4-H members who have attended Congress previously. Press Corps member can be any senior 4-H member; they do not have to have attended Congress previously.

The responsibility of the Lobbyist group is to identify certain bills and then lobby members of the House and Senate to either pass or defeat the bill. Lobbyist should be knowledgeable about Texas 4-H Congress and the schedule that it follows. Lobbyist members should be prepared and be comfortable approaching others who may have a different opinion on Congressional topics.

Texas 4-H Congress Press Corps members can be either first time or returning 4-H members. Individuals applying for the Press Corps should have strong skills in writing, word processing, interviewing, photography, and focused on making deadlines. Two Texas 4-H Council members and up to 15 4-H members may serve on the press corps.

Applications to be considered for both positions must be submitted on 4-H Connect and will close **March 20th.** More information: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BudTuJ_qpV-rCmYr2veStJhOLxRiXLCAl2eIVkAe4ls/edit?usp=sharing>

***2020 4-H Outdoor Challenge:***

When: June 21-22, 2020

Where: Texas 4-H Center, Brownwood

Contest- 4-H Connect (https://texas.4honline.com), **April 15-May 15, 2020;** Participation is **limited to the first 60 full teams who register**. Registration fee is $50 per contestant.

 Lodging & Meals- Optional Lodging and Meals at the 4-H Center are available by reserving on https://texas4hcenter.tamu.edu/ during same timeframe as Contest Registration.

Rules and Resources Guide:

 General information can currently be found in the 4-H Outdoor Challenge Rules and Resources Guide posted on the 4-H Outdoor Education and Living Skills webpage; <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/outdoor-education-living-skills/>.

***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