**4-H Blast**

May 22, 2020

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

**Texas 4-H will not conduct face-to-face programming until May 31st. Programming includes 4-H club meetings, project meetings, practices, contests, and recognition events.**

4-H Happenings Coming Up:

* **May 1-28**: Entomology Contest
* **May 15-27:** Texas 4-H Virtual Lead Academy Registration
* **May 22:** RFA Broiler Orders: Order through RFA
* **May 23-24:** Catfish Skill-A-Thon
* **May 28:** Deadline for State Entomology Contest
* **May 30-31:** Catfish Skill-A-Thon
* **May 31:** DEADLINE District Council Officer Elections
* **June 1:** Kitchen Vision Recipe Submission Deadline
* **June 1:** Healthy Texas Ambassadors Applications Due, County Extension Office
* **June 5:** Recordbook Registration form DEADLINE: <https://forms.gle/4o8gfHoY376QG6Xe6>
* **June 5:** DEADLINE District 8 Surge (Leadership Lab)
* **June 8:** Release of Entries (competitors have a chance to change categories)
* **July 9:** District Recordbook Judging
* **June 9:** Texas 4-H Roundup Celebration, 7-9pm, Facebook Live
* **June 10:** Deadline to notify change of category
* **June 12:** Release of New Entry List
* **June 12:** County Council Officer Election Intent to Run Form and Videos Due
* **June 15:** All Individual recordbooks DUE (if they want reviewed and “judged”)
* **June 15:** Milam County State Fair Validation and 2020-2021 Steer & Heifer Validation, 7:30am-12pm, Leifeste Cattle Company
* **June 17-19:** District 8 Surge (Leadership Lab) and District Council Officer Elections ***(VIRTUAL!!!)***
* **June 17:** Rockdale Fair Turkey Pickup, Rockdale
* **June 22:** Recordbooks and Awards Due
* **June 23-25:** Recordbooks Judged (those who are competing against each other)
* **June 23:** County Council Meeting, 4pm, Zoom
* **June 23:** Club Charters Due
* **June 26:** Recordbooks can be picked up from office to be edited before District
* **June 26-28:** Southeast District County Camp, Palestine ***CANCELED!!!***
* **July 7:** All recordbooks due back for District Judging
* **July 9:** District 4-H Recordbook Judging
* **July 12-15:** Texas 4-H Congress
* **July 16:** 4-H Award Interviews, County Extension Office

***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!

***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! **DURING THIS TIME, PLEASE CHECK THE FACEBOOK FOR UPDATED INFORMATION ON EVENTS SO YOU CAN RECEIVE THEM IN A TIMELY MANNER!**

***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: **May 16, 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. Lambs, Swine & Goats: **July 11, 2020**, 7:00 to 9:00 a.m., Rockdale Fair Park
3. Rabbits: **September 10, 2020**, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., Home Demonstration Building, Rockdale Fair Park
4. 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
5. 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
6. Breeding Beef Heifer entries postmarked and due **September 10, 2020**

***Milam County State Fair Validation and 2020-2021 Steer & Heifer Validation:***

When: ***Monday, June 15, 2020 7:30am to 12:00pm***

Where: Leifeste Cattle Company – 1896 CR. 255. Loop. Cameron, TX 76520

What: **All Species Validation – Swine, Sheep, Goats, to be shown at the 2020 State Fair of Texas or all Steers, and Heifers showing at 2020-2021 Major Shows.**

For those of you familiar with the summer validation process, you know that Kenny Mingus has graciously allowed us to hold it at the Milam County Livestock Auction. This is because we typically validate 75 or more head of steers and we certainly can’t thank him enough for offering this location. This year, as you have likely already noticed above, we will be holding validation at Leifeste Cattle Company. After speaking with Alan and looking at his facilities, I feel this will make the validation process simpler and the working chutes he provides can handle smaller sized cattle typical of what we are validating. The address is shown above but if you have questions regarding location you can contact Alan at (512) 423-7355 or Floyd at (972) 268-5732.

Day of Validation

The validation process will run as it always has.

Swine – 7:30am to 8:30am

Sheep and Goats – 8:30am to 9:30am

Steers and Heifers – 9:30am to 12:00pm

\*Notice\* All breeding animals will need to have original registration papers on-site otherwise they will not be validated. Same goes for any State Validation tags that have not been payed for. No physical validation of any animal will take place until payment has been received in full.

I will close by saying that this entire situation is still somewhat fluid and could potentially change. If changes are made, myself and Ag Teachers will do our best to update you as soon as possible. Keep an eye on emails, 4-H blasts, and if you don’t follow the Milam County 4-H Facebook page feel free to. It is updated regularly.

Thank you all for your patience and understanding in all of this. We have the best 4-H and FFA Livestock Exhibitors in the State right here in Milam County and on behalf of the Milam County Livestock Validation Committee, we look forward to seeing you all back in the ring soon!

***Recordbooks:*** Recordbook forms: <http://counties.agrilife.org/mc4h/4-h-activities/recordbooks/>

This event was supposed to be held ***June 23rd*** but will be done differently this year. We will not be conducting a face to face judging. Below is the new timeline for this year.

June 5: Recordbook Registration form DEADLINE: <https://forms.gle/4o8gfHoY376QG6Xe6>

June 8: Release of Entries (competitors have a chance to change categories)

June 10: Deadline to notify change of category

June 12: Release of New Entry List

June 15: All Individual recordbooks DUE (if they want reviewed and “judged”)

June 22: All recordbooks DUE

June 23-25: Recordbooks Judged (those who are competing against each other)

June 26: Recordbooks can be picked up from office to be edited before District

July 7: All recordbooks due back for District Judging

July 9: District Recordbook Judging

***Milam County 4-H Awards:*** The Milam County 4-H Awards are now up on the website and will be due ***June 22nd*** at the County Extension Office. <https://counties.agrilife.org/mc4h/4-h-clubs/awards/> Some require recordbooks and some do not. Award interviews will be held ***July 16th*** at the Extension Office. The interviews will be held at the back of the office and all families will stay in their car until their interview time to continue social distancing. We will allow FACETIME/Zoom video interviews for those who cannot or do not feel comfortable with interviewing with the judges.

***County Council Officer Elections: County Council Meeting will be held on June 23rd at 4pm on ZOOM***. The meeting will be just about electing officers and discussing future plans for the year such as banquet and other leadership opportunities. I will be sending out an intent to apply form soon by email to all club managers and council officers.

The intent to run form is located on the website: <https://counties.agrilife.org/mc4h/4-h-clubs/milam-county-4-h-council-and-parentleaders/>

This year we will require County Council Officer candidates to submit a 2-3 minute video. Please see the form on instructions. The intent to apply form and video will be due ***June 12th.*** Again, when we send this out to the Council and you, please share with ALL 4-H members.

***District 8 Surge (Leadership Lab):***

Going all in.....online!

District 8 4-H SURGE Virtual Workshop Series

***June 17-19***

***Registration is currently open on 4-H Connect and will be open until June 5th.***

FMI: <https://agrilife.org/d84h/events-and-activities/leadership-lab/>

Registration will be held via 4-H Connect. There will be a $15 registration fee. Each registrant will receive their camp t-shirt in the mail (these will come to the county office). Registration will also put each student in the drawing for top notch door prizes. Supply information for the workshops will be emailed to each registrant.

Schedule

June 17

10:00-Welcome & Overview

10:15-Keynote Speaker, Noah Cremean

11:15-Break

11:20-Workshop

11:55-Wrap up

12:00-Log-off

June 18

10:00-Welcome & Overview

10:15-Capnote Speaker, TBD

11:15-Break

11:20-Workshop/District Council Address

11:55-Wrap up

12:00-Log-off

June 19th

9:00-Welcome

9:05-District Council Candidate Introductions

9:15-District Council Elections

11:00-District Council Officer Retiring Address (also live streamed via Facebook for friends & family to view)

11:30-2020-2021 District Council Officer Instillation

12:00-Log-Off

***District Council Officer Elections:*** The District 8 4-H Youth Development Program provides District 8 4-H Council officers many opportunities to be ambassadors for the 4-H program, practice and share their leadership skills, and assist in making District 8 4-H events run smoothly. District 8 4-H Council members are held to a high standard of excellence which should be demonstrated by participation in the scheduled events and activities. Application on 4-H Connect – Due ***Sunday, May 31, 2020***

FMI: <https://agrilife.org/d84h/district-4-h-council/>

Candidate Interviews:

Candidate interviews will be conducted via Zoom on ***June 5th***. I will send information to students and their agents when we get closer to that date.

Council Candidate Speeches:

All candidates will be asked to record their speech and send to me (either the video or link to the video). All video submissions will be due by 5:00pm on ***Friday, June 8th***.

***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 virtual. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 4-H Entomology Collection Contest will be submitted through photographs. Photographs will be uploaded to 4-H Connect, ***May 1- May 28, 2020***. The LAST DAY to upload submissions is May 28th.

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.

***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 ***June 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.

***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 30, 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/>.

***Texas 4-H Congress Announcement:***

As of today, we are working towards a Texas 4-H Congress happening as it has been held for many years. As of today…………………………..

I understand that members and their families may be a little wary about whether to register for the event or not since our normal schedules have been altered so much recently and we cannot give a definite direction about the summer events. However, I would encourage interested youth to go ahead and submit a bill and get registered as if we knew for sure we were hosting Congress. Registrations will not be approved until we are certain about the event.

As a reminder, all students wanting to attend Congress, will need to submit a bill.

Quick Congress Info:

When: ***July 12-15, 2020***

Where: Texas State Capitol, Austin

Who: Senior 4-H members

Cost: Varies (**$350 May 5**)

All other information can be found here: <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/events/congress/>

***D8 4-H County Camp:*** The D8 4-H County Camp Committee has decided to cancel Southeast D8 4-H County Camp in Palestine this June. Due to the new camp regulations, we feel we will not be able to structure camping activities in a way that would allow us to conduct learning opportunities and make camp enjoyable for those attendance. We are saddened by this cancellation, but feel this is the best decision for the safety of all youth and adults in District 8.

We plan on booking dates for next summer 2021 and look forward to seeing everyone at the Southeast D8 4-H County Camp.

***Texas 4-H Celebration:***

BIG NEWS. We can't be together in person this June, but we CAN CELEBRATE a great 4-H year! Join us for a Texas 4-H Celebration evening where your 2020 scholarship recipients will find out what scholarship they will be awarded, your Salute to Excellence Winners will be recognized, your Texas 4-H Council will retire their jackets, and MORE! Tune in to Facebook Live right here at #Texas4H from 7-9 PM on **Tuesday, June 9th**! Please note families do NOT have to have a Facebook account to view the video as long as they are given the link to the live video. Share this post to help us spread the word! 🍀

***20/20 Kitchen Vision:***

Texas 4-H Youth Development and the Texas 4-H Foundation is seeking culinary talent from 4-H members from across the state, and they need YOUR help finding the perfect recipes! The 20/20 Kitchen Vision project is designed to highlight recipes created by current Texas 4-H members and clover kids!

Recipes MUST be created by a current Texas 4-H member or Clover Kid. Youth should submit recipes and a photo of the completed dish to callie.henly@ag.tamu.edu by **June 1st**. The recipes will then be voted on by the public on our Texas 4-H social media platforms to determine our cookbook dishes.

***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