**4-H Blast**

**January 24, 2017**

* **January 24:** Consumer Project Meeting, 6pm, Bea’s Kitchen
* **January 27:** Beekeeping Essay Contest Deadline
* **January 27:** SALE Consumer Contest Hotel Room Reservation Deadline
* **January 27:** 4-H Foundation Scholarship Deadline to County Extension Office
* **January 30:** Consumer Project Meeting, 4-7pm, Bea’s Kitchen

***4-H Blasts:*** [***http://counties.agrilife.org/mc4h/4-h-blasts/***](http://counties.agrilife.org/mc4h/4-h-blasts/)

CONGRATULATIONS to all the winners at the Major Shows!!! Keep up the great work and represent Milam County 4-H well! Good luck to all of those participating!

***CLUB NEWS:***

Shooting Sports News:

* Shooting sports meeting dates (See below)
* Our 4H fundraiser (a Varmint Hunt to be held on Feb 18th and 19th)
* We are now shooting Postal League.  It isn't too late to compete in this state competition.
* Registration for March Madness is now open on iClays

Shooting Sports Dates:

Meeting Dates (\* denotes shoot-only days – no business meeting)

• January 29, 2017

• February 5, 2017

• February 26, 2017

• March 5, 2017\*

• March 26, 2017

• April 9, 2017

• April 23, 2017

• May 14, 2017

Thorndale 4-H Meeting: February 27th, 6pm (SEE NEW TIME!)

***MCJLS/MAJOR SHOW 4-H LIVESTOCK NEWS:***

* Mkt. Bunnies will be tattooed ------------------------ **February 20**, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. (subject to change).
* MCJLS Broilers Pick-Up, **February 15**, 4-5:30pm, YEB
* Ft. Worth Passes are in!!! Come and get them if you ordered them!!!
* If you would like a site visit from Floyd to see your animals before major shows, please call the Extension Office and set up an appointment (254-697-7045).

***Milam County Junior Livestock Show Entry Nights:***

* Tuesday, **February 7**: Rockdale
* Wednesday, **February 8**: Thorndale
* Monday, **February 20**: Cameron
* **February 20**: FINAL Deadline
* **After February 20**, late entries will be accepted until March 30th for an ADDITIONAL $100.00 per entry.

***Milam County Junior Livestock Show 4-H Club Meeting Requirement:***

* You much enroll on 4-H Connect for the current year starting September 1st
* You can ONLY attend your primary club to count for the TWO meetings
* Attend TWO meetings from **August 1, 2016-March 1, 2017**
* Make sure you SIGN the sign in/attendance sheet when you first arrive at the meeting

***District Contest Opportunities:***

***4-H Photography Contest:*** The County Photo Contest for district and state will be held in March. Please see the website for all the information. Entries are due **March 27,2017**. <http://counties.agrilife.org/mc4h/projects/photography-contests/>

***District 8 4-H Fashion Show, Storyboard, Trashion Show, and Duds to Dazzle:*** These district contests will be held on **Tuesday, April 11, 2017** at the Bell County Expo Center in Belton. If you are interested in participating in one of these contests, please see our website for more details. Deadline for contacting our office will be **March 1st**. If interests are shown, we will either have a county contest or a work day to prepare. Please let us know if you are interested! <http://counties.agrilife.org/mc4h/projects/clothing-and-textiles-project/>

***County and District Roundup:*** County Roundup is still being planned but mark your calendar for **May 6th** for the District Roundup in Riesel! These are really fun contests for many to participate in. Here is the link to our website with more information. It is a great way to take your 4-H and School presentations/band performances and put them to use. Great public speaking skills too! <http://counties.agrilife.org/mc4h/projects/roundup-contest/>

***State 4-H Opportunities:*** Here are a few opportunities going on in the State 4-H Program! For more opportunities and information, see the website: <http://counties.agrilife.org/mc4h/state-4-h-opportunities/>

***4-H Coloring, Photography, and Art Contest:***

ATTENTION: Open to Clover Kids and all 4-H members- The Texas 4-H Youth Development Program is partnering with the Texas A&M Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory to help celebrate their 50th Anniversary of ensuring the safety of our state. To do this the TVMDL is sponsoring a coloring contest for Texas 4-H Clover Kids and an art and photography contest for 4-H members. The contest will run from **January 1, 2017 to April 1, 2017** and all entries are to be turned into the Extension Office and we will scan them and enter them on 4-H Connect. This does means that all Clover Kids and 4-H members will need to have an active profile in 4-H CONNECT to enter. To enter the contest and for more information, please go to: <http://counties.agrilife.org/mc4h/state-4-h-opportunities/>.

***Rodeo Austin School Tour Guides Needed:***

The Rodeo Austin School Tours Program is gearing up for another busy year! Last year, during the five days of school tours, School Tour Guides led over 6,000 school age children to educational exhibits around the rodeo grounds.

The dates for this year are March 20-24, 2017. We expect over 6,000 attendees and will need approximately 75 tour guides per day to handle the classes.

Rodeo Austin needs tour guides and helpers for this event. These volunteers should be age 13 and up. The tour guides will be assigned classes and tour routes. The helpers will assist School Tour Committee members with other duties to make this event enjoyable and successful for everyone. If you are interested, please call the office as soon as possible to request to help.

***2017 Beekeeping Essay Contest information*:** This year’s essay will be submitted online through Texas 4-H Connect.2017 Essay Topic: “How can MP3 (Managed Pollinator Protection Plan) more effectively protect honey bees from pesticide exposure?” Deadline for submission will be **Friday, January 27, 2017**. AWARDS: Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three winners from Texas 4-H: 1st Place: $300.00, 2nd Place: $200.00, 3rd Place: $100.00

***Bell County Youth Fair Vet Science Skillathon*:** Bell County Youth Fair is having a vet science skillathon on **February 10th** at BCYF -- it is open to all 4-H and FFA from around the state. If you are interested, please call the County Extension Office and we will send you the information.

***Texas 4-H Roundup T-shirt Design Contest:*** This year's theme for Texas 4-H Roundup is "DREAM ON". We are seeking the help of 4-H members across the state to design this year's Commemorative Roundup T-shirt. The winning design will receive credit as the designer, their name and county will be noted on the shirt, as well as a $150 gift card. Deadline to submit is **February 28, 2017**. Submission is via FormSite at <https://fs4.formsite.com/state4h/tshirtdesign/index.html> Participation is open to any Texas 4-H member as verified through 4-H Connect Enrollment.

***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](http://www.Join4-h.com) or [www.facebook.com/milamcountyfourH](http://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