**4-H Blast**

**February 22, 2017**

* **February 25:** Mardi Gras Fundraiser, 6pm, Simon George Hall, Cameron
* **February 27:** County Council, 6pm, Thorndale Sr. Citizens Building
* **February 28:** Consumer Practice, 6pm, Bea’s Kitchen, Cameron
* **March 4:** District Consumer Contest, 8:15am, Waco MCC Emergency Classroom
* **March 15:** 4-H Service Day, 9:30am, Temple Ronald McDonald House (BRING ITEMS WITH YOU OR BEFORE)

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!

***Chris Holcombe Mardi Gras Fundraiser:*** The 5th annual "Mardi Gras” bash will be held **Saturday, Feb. 25, 2017** at Simon George Hall, 401 S. Karnes, in Cameron. The event, which will start at 6 p.m., will include a Cajun food dinner, auctions including a gun raffle and activities for the kids. Adult tickets are $10 and children under 18 are $5. Tickets may be purchased at the Milam County Extension Office, the Rockdale Reporter, and Rodenbeck Farm & Ranch in Thorndale.

If you would like to donate items for this year's event please email us at cholcombememorial@gmail.com with a description or donations can be dropped off at Ideal Poultry in Cameron.

Over the past four years a total of $53,000 in scholarships has been given to college students from Milam County as as result of the Mardi Gras event. We thank you for your continued support! See you on **Feb. 25**.

Milam County 4-H will be helping set up for the fundraiser on Saturday at 10am. If you can come help, that would be great! Come and buy a ticket and have some fun!

***County Council:*** We will be having a County Council Meeting on **Monday, February 27, 6pm** at the Thorndale Sr. Citizens Building in Thorndale. Please come and learn about the 4-H Exchange project from District Officer, Wesley Ide.

***CLUB NEWS:***

Shooting Sports News:

* 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 meeting dates (See below)

Shooting Sports Dates:

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

• 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!)

***Milam County 4-H Community Service Day:*** We will be meeting at the Temple Ronald McDonald House on **Wednesday, March 15th at 9:30am**. We will be delivering coke tabs and wish list items. Anyone wishing to donate please see items below for donations. Items can be delivered any time before the 14th of March. Coke Tabs may also be donated. Thanks!

Community support over the last 26 years has helped this House serve over 9,000 families from all over the world. Donations, large and small, have helped the House feel like a home for people living through tremendously stressful times in their lives. Whether it’s a batch of homemade cookies, a home-cooked or purchased meal, handmade blankets, videotapes or DVD’s, or packaged snacks, each gift warms a heart.

So many times people ask how they can help the House and the families who are here. Here are a few suggestions:

\* = Items in crucial need

Groups to Prepare Dinner\*\*Queen sized sheets (cream or neutral)

Individual boxes of cereal\*

Fresh Fruit – Bananas

Clock Radios

AA & AAA Batteries

Paper Towels

Individual bags of chips, snacks, pudding, crackers\*

Plastic Spoons

New Pillows

Gift Cards

(Wal-Mart, Kohl’s, Target, HEB)Rolls of Stamps

\*Glad plug-in refills (vanilla)

Solid air fresheners (vanilla)

Used Ink Cartridges to Recycle

Old Cell Phones to Recycle

Slice & Bake Cookies\*

Copy Paper

Pull Tabs to Recycle

Keurig K-Cups (any flavor)\*

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

* MCJLS: March 30-April 1, 2017
* Website for rules: <http://counties.agrilife.org/mc4h/4-h-projects/milam-county-junior-livestock-show/>
* Major Show 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 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/>.

***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.

***Texas 4-H Outdoor Challenge:*** This year’s contest will be held June 16-18, 2017 at the Seguin Outdoor Learning Center. Registration will open on 4-H Connect May 1 and close on May 29. No late team registrations. Please call the office for more information.

***Texas 4-H Horse Show:*** If you would like to compete in the Horse Show, please email or call our office for the information!

***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