**4-H Blast**

**March 22, 2017**

* **March 26:** Shooting Sports Club Meeting, see below for information
* **March 27:** County Photo Entries due for District and State Photo Contest
* **March 30-April 1**: MCJLS
* **March 31/April 1:** Coloring Pages due for the Coloring Contest
* **April 3**: Recordbook Training, online
* **April 5:** Commercial Heifers Tag-in at Milam County Auction Barn, Cameron
* **April 7:** Navarro Consumer/Livestock Judging Contest, Coriscana
* **April 10**: County Roundup/Workshop Night, 6pm, County Extension Office
* **April 11**: District Fashion Show, Belton
* **April 16**: National 4-H Congress Application Deadline
* **April 18**: County Council Meeting, 6pm, Rockdale New Salem Building
* **April 21**: Rockdale Fair Turkey Orders Due
* **April 21**: District Plant ID Contest/Ag Product ID Contest
* **April 22**: Livestock Judging District Contest
* **April 27-May 7:** Tractor Supply Spring Clover Fundraiser

***MCJLS:***

* **MCJLS:** **March 30-April 1, 2017**
* **ATTENTION:** YOU MUST complete an eligibility form BEFORE YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN MCJLS whether you are getting out of school or not! <http://counties.agrilife.org/mc4h/4-h-enrollmentguidelines/eligibility-form/> Please follow the instructions on the website when completing this form. This includes homeschool students. PLEASE complete this task before **Friday, March 24th**. You cannot get out of school for helping show animals. If you have a livestock entry, are allowed only Thursday and Friday out of school.
* **ATTENTION BAKED GOODS:** The website has some instructions for baked goods participants, please go and read it thoroughly. Remember: you must have 2 copies of your recipe card with you for check-in. Those doing baked goods will NOT be able to get out of school UNLESS you are doing showmanship. We also expect you to only be out of school when doing the judging of the showmanship and not the entire day. (8:45am- Pee Wee and Junior Showmanship, 2pm- Senior Showmanship) Please make sure you do not turn anything in that needs refrigeration. If you doubt it, don’t do it!
* **REMEMBER:** You must clean up to receive your $10 fee back.
* Website for rules: <http://counties.agrilife.org/mc4h/4-h-projects/milam-county-junior-livestock-show/>

***Raise Your Hand Campaign:***

We’re supporting 4-H in this effort because we believe every child deserves the chance to succeed. If you’re a 4-H alumni or know someone who is, we’re asking for your help in spreading the word. Together we can help 4-H provide the hands-on learning that empowers kids across America with the skills to handle what life throws at them.

It’s easy:

1. Raise Your Hand: Go to <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/raiseyourhand> to show your pride as a 4-H alumni.

2. Compete for Your State: Raising your hand is a vote towards a $20,000, $10,000 or $5,000 award for the states with the most alumni hands raised.

3. Pay It Forward: Tweet, post and share your #4HGrown experience or support and tag fellow alumni asking them to raise their hands for their state at <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/raiseyourhand>.

***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)

• March 26, 2017

• April 9, 2017

• April 23, 2017

• May 14, 2017

***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/>

***Recordbook Training Scheduled:*** We will be holding an online recordbook training for **April 3rd at 6pm**. All families are welcome to attend in the comfort of their own home and listen on their phone or computer. <https://agrilife-tamu.webex.com/agrilife-tamu/j.php?MTID=mc194a662b3519a8060083f9dab29d31f> Meeting password: 4hrecordbooks

***County and District Roundup:*** County Roundup/Workshop will be **April 10th at 6pm at the Extension Office** and make sure you 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/> You can integrate your band, dance, or a presentation into the Roundup Contests so you may have already done something, come and see how it all fits in on April 10th! Please call or email if you plan to have a presentation or skit and plan to come on the 10th or not! Thank you!

***Rockdale Fair Upcoming Important Dates:***

Ownership and Tag-in dates are as follows:

Commercial Heifers: **April 5, 2017**, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Tag-in at Milam County Auction Barn, Cameron

Turkey Orders Due: **April 21, 2017,** $5.50/each

Steers: **May 18, 2017**, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Tag-in at Milam County Auction Barn, Cameron

For more dates and times, please see the rules on our website: <http://counties.agrilife.org/mc4h/rockdale-fair/>

***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/>.

***NEW: National 4-H Congress:*** National 4-H Congress is held annually in Atlanta, Georgia over the Thanksgiving holidays. The program combines a variety of fun and exciting educational, recreational and networking opportunities. The program combines sessions, seminars, discussion groups, and a service learning experience. The nation’s most outstanding community leaders, speakers, and educators present the most current and timely information available.

Eligibility:

• Youth in grades 9-12 at time of event, November 23-28, 2017.

• Youth must still be in high school during the time of the trip.

• Must have approval of county Extension Office

IMPORTANT DATES:

Online Application Closes: **April 16, 2017**

Interviews Announced: April 28, 2017

Interviews during Roundup: TBD

Delegation Announced: June 8, 2017

Deposit (1st Payment) due ($750.00): June 30, 2017

Final (2nd Payment) due (balance of $1,000-1,500\*): July 31, 2017 (donor/sponsor search underway; final registration amount to be announced by May 1, but will not exceed $1,500)

***Texas 4-H Outdoor Challenge:*** This year’s contest will be held **June 16-18, 2017** at the Seguin Outdoor Learning Center. Registration will close on 4-H Connect **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!

***4-H Fundraiser:*** The Spring Paper Clover Campaign with Tractor Supply Co is approaching fast! The dates will be **April 27 to May 7** and will once again provide an opportunity for local 4-H programs to partner with their TSC stores to promote the 4-H program across our state.

***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