**4-H Blast**

**October 13, 2017**

* **October 16-*18:*** Rockdale Fair Home Economics Competition, see rules for times and days
* **October 18:**Rockdale Fair Kick Off, 6pm
* **October 17-*21:*** Rockdale Fair
* **October 24:**Heifer Validation 2018, Milam County YEB
* **October 26:**Major sheep and goat validation for Spring Major Shows, YEB
* **October 30:** Consumer Butterbraids Money and Forms due, Extension Office

***GOOD LUCK AT ROCKDALE FAIR!!!! REMEMBER SPORTMANSHIP!!! REPRESENT MILAM COUNTY 4-H WELL!!!!***

***New 4-H Year:***

The new 4-H year will start **September 1st**. 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! NOTE: Please make sure you enroll ASAP because you will not be able to show at State Fair or Rockdale Fair unless you enroll! Please make sure you check your status, if you are pending or active, you are good. If you have an inactive, incomplete, or resubmit, please go in and take care of these enrollments. Thank you!!!

***Master Gardeners Announce Fall Rose Sale***

Are you looking forward to the Fall weather and being able to get back in your garden? In anticipation of that time, Little River Basin Master Gardeners of Milam County are having their Fall Blooming Beauty Rose Sale on **October 14.** The good news is that the sale will be held in two locations: the **Rockdale Chamber of Commerce from 9 am to 1 pm and downtown Cameron at the “Steak”toberfest from 10 am to 7 pm**.

"Fall is the best time to plant roses, giving the roots ample time to get established and the plant time to prepare for its beautiful spring bloom," said Master Gardener James Anderle. In addition to beautiful roses, you can get free advice from Master Gardeners at the sale, along with information about how to plant and care for your roses. These blooming beauties will sell for $18, which is under market value and you pay no tax since LRBMG is a non-profit organization. Mark your calendars now to save the date!

***Milam County 4-H Raffle:***

**NOW THROUGH MARCH 1st!!!**

How to Get Give-A-Way Tickets:

4-H Give-a-Way Tickets are now available from club managers (or fund raising leaders).

When is the Give-A-Way Drawing?

The drawing will be held at the Milam County Junior Livestock Show- March 24, 2018. The club that sells the most tickets will have their representatives named Mr. & Miss 4-H and the club that sells the second highest amount of tickets will have their representatives named Prince and Princess. Those results will not be announced till the 4-H Awards in September 2018.

Where to sell?

 Sell tickets to friends and family. Please do not sell door to door for safety reasons. We need all 4-H families to sell as many as possible to continue providing support to 4-H.

How do you benefit from selling?

 The Milam County 4-H Give-A-Way will award the top 3 families who sell tickets with a gift card! Also each 4-H member who participates in 4-H at the County level benefits from these funds!

Don’t forget to get your tickets and sell!

***Rockdale Fair Update:***

Rockdale Fair Home Economic Division and Auction Baked Goods Rules are posted on the website! Change from last year: Rockdale Fair Home Economics Division activities will once again be back at the New Salem Building on the fair grounds and happen at the beginning of the week. Check-in for the Home Economics Division starts on Monday, **October 16, 2017**, and check out will be Wednesday, **October 18, 2017**, from 6-7pm along with pictures at 5:30pm.

For all rules on Rockdale Fair, please visit the website: <http://counties.agrilife.org/mc4h/rockdale-fair/>

A Welcome Party/Exhibitor Kick-Off will be held **October 18th, at 6pm**, at the Rockdale Fairgrounds. They will have Free T-shirts for all exhibitors, free hot dog dinner for exhibitors, family night at the carnival, pick up exhibitor passes, and you may bring all of your tack, feed, signage, stalls, etc. (no animals). Pig scramble will start at 6:30pm.

***Major Heifer Validation:***

Heifer Validation for the 2018 show year will be **October 24, 2017** at the Milam County YEB

Price will be $10.00 per heifer. Heifers previously validated will not need to attend.

***Consumer Practices and Contests:***

The 4-H Consumer Project is a great life skill to have. The contests are open to 3rd grade-12th grade but we have opened up the project to now 1st and 2nd grade to practice and learn early. Below are the practice and contest dates. However, we have already started fundraising for the San Antonio Contest hotel rooms so please email Micah (mlholcombe@ag.tamu.edu) to be added to the consumer email list and receive the fundraiser packet.

* October 7th: HOT Consumer Contest- Waco
* October 30th: Fundraiser Form and Money due to Extension Office
* November 7th (7pm, Cameron HS)- Practice
* November 14th- Practice
* November 28th - Practice
* December 12th- Practice
* January 9th Need to check on this one- Practice
* January 16th- Practice
* January 30th (County Contest-mandatory for all members who are competing in SALE and District) - Practice
* February 16th: San Antonio- Target- Practice before SALE
* February 17th: SALE Consumer Contest
* February 27th- Practice
* March 3rd: District Consumer Contest

***Major Sheep & Goat Validation:***

Major sheep and goat validation for Spring Major Shows will be Thursday **October 26th** 2017 at the Milam County YEB

This is not MCJLS Sheep and Goat tag in. However if you are a family that is validating sheep or goats for major shows and will be validating a MCJLS only sheep or goat project, you may bring it to tag along with your Major Show projects.

***Holiday Classic:*** The clinic is **November 4-5, 2017** at the Bell County Expo. It is FREE!!!! Open to all youth in grades 3-12th. Please see the 4-H AG website for more information! The Holiday Classic Clinics and Prospect Shows are intended to provide an educational opportunity for new families participating in the livestock project area. The main purpose is to teach the basic principles of livestock management as they relate to facilitiy maintenance, selection, nutrition, animal health, handling, showmanship, and transportation.

***Holiday Gift Idea:***

On **November 13th** the Holiday Gift Idea Exchange will be held at Bea’s Kitchen in Cameron from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m. You will see a variety of demonstrations, get handouts with instructions for the projects and enjoy refreshments and door prizes. Everyone is welcome at the program. Come to the Holiday Gift Idea Exchange on November 13 and get new ideas for the holiday season.

4-H Members: (Kindergarten-12th grade) bring a Holiday Craft or Food and demonstrate it to the audience!

A booklet with all instructions will be given out! 4-H members are also asked to bring a second item of the same to give for door prize! Deadline to email instructions to the County Extension Office: **November 9th**, Email: mlholcombe@ag.tamu.edu with instructions. **PLEASE BRING A CAN GOOD FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE!!!!!**

***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, 2017-March 1, 2018
* Make sure you SIGN the sign in/attendance sheet when you first arrive at the meeting

***Texas 4-H Community Service Project:***

The 2017-2018 Texas 4-H Council is encouraging local 4-H clubs to collect new or gently used children and young adult books. The books should be donated back to your local community, schools, libraries, hospitals, etc. We will be collecting the books at the Extension Office then donating them to the different libraries in the community!

Please send the Extension Office photos of your service project of collecting books. A presentation will be made during Texas 4-H Roundup announcing the impact made across the state. Collection will be taken from now till June 1st.

***Jr. Leadership Retreat:***

Registration has opened, Junior Leadership Retreat. 4-H youth currently in 3rd through 8th grade can register to attend. The Texas 4-H Council will lead educational sessions in: Outdoor Cooking, Community Service, Robotics, Duds to Dazzle, and Wildlife Education. This retreat is held **November 10-12, 2017**, at the Texas 4-H Center in Lake Brownwood. Registration is open from **September 1-October 27**.

***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