**4-H Blast**

February 15, 2018

* **February 16th:** SALE Consumer Practice, SA Target, 2pm
* **February 17th:** SALE Consumer Contest
* **February 19th:** SALE Horse Judging Contest
* **February 19th:** County Council Meeting, Thorndale Chamber, 6:30pm

***Good luck to those competing at Major Shows!!! Represent Milam County 4-H!!!***

***Dates for Spring/Summer:***

These are a few dates to please put on your calendar!

* **March 3:** District Consumer Contest
* **March 14:** Ronald McDonald House Spring Break Service Project
* **March 22-24:** MCJLS
* **March 23:** Navarro Consumer Contest
* **April 7:** District Horse Judging
* **April 10:** Roundup Orientation Night, 6pm, County Extension Office
* **April 14:** Hackamore Plant and Range ID Contest
* **April 16:** County Council Meeting/Officer Elections
* **April 17:** District Fashion Show
* **April 21:** District Livestock, Meat, Soil Judging Contest
* **May 5:** District 8 4-H Roundup
* **May 7:** Ag in the Classroom
* **June 8:** Fun Day Camp
* **June 11-15:** Texas 4-H Roundup
* **July 13-15:** D8 County Camp
* **July 13-15:** Texas 4-H Dog Show
* **July 22-26:** Texas 4-H Congress

Many other contests and activities but here is a highlight!!!

***County Council:***

County Council meeting will be held in Thorndale on **Monday, February 19th at 6:30pm** at the Thorndale Chamber downtown. We will have a guest speaker. Please bring a children’s book for the community service project!!! See you there!

***Ronald McDonald House:***

We will be meeting at the Temple Ronald McDonald House on Wednesday, March 14th at 9:30am. We will be delivering coke tabs and wish list items. Items can be delivered any time before the 13th of March. Coke Tabs may also be donated. Community support over the last 27 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. Items to donate:

Wish List Items for Ronald McDonald House:

\* = 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)\*

***Milam County Junior Livestock Show:***

Milam County Junior Livestock Show! March 22-24, 2018 SAVE THE DATE!!! For entry forms and rules please go to: <https://counties.agrilife.org/mc4h/4-h-projects/milam-county-junior-livestock-show/>

MCJLS DATES TO REMEMBER:

* Broiler pickup will be announced soon.

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

***Shooting Sports Meetings:***

Meetings will be at the New Salem Building at the Rockdale Fair Grounds at 2pm. The format will stay the same with the first meeting being a meeting with shooting after and the second meeting being shooting.

* February 11 and 25
* March 4 and 18
* April 8 and 22
* May 13 and 20
* June 10 and 24

***Consumer Practices and Contests:***

Practice and Contest dates.

* February 16th: San Antonio- Target- Practice before SALE
* February 17th: SALE Consumer Contest
* February 27th- Practice, 6pm, Bea’s Kitchen
* March 3rd: District Consumer Contest

***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!

***Hackamore Plant ID Contest:*** SAVE THE DATE! The Hackamore Plant ID Contest will be held in Thorndale on April 14th. More information to follow later!

***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.

***State Water Ambassador:***

The Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors Program provides high school age youth an opportunity to gain advanced knowledge and practice leadership skills related to the science, technology, engineering, and management of water in Texas. Each year, up to (32) individuals are selected to join the Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors Program. Those selected will participate in a summer 4-H2O Youth Leadership Academy. Over the next (12) months, Ambassadors will provide a minimum of (40) hours of service. Deadline to apply is May 20th. Registration will open February 19, 2018 @ <https://fs4.formsite.com/state4h/water/index.html> If you are interested in this opportunity, please let the Extension Office know or follow this link above.

***Wildlife Conservation Camp:*** Applications are now open for the Wildlife Conservation Camp sponsored by the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society. Applications can be completed by visiting http://www.wildlifecamptx.org/. Complete camp details can also be found on that webpage. Applications must be submitted by May 1, 2018. Space is limited so encourage your 4-H members to explore and apply soon for this hands on, broad experience surveying and learning about the habitats of Texas, the wildlife we live with, and the management techniques and careers encompassing our wildlife. For more information, contact the Extension Office.

***Texas 4-H Outdoor Challenge:*** 2018 Texas 4-H Outdoor Challenge will be held on June 22-24 at the Seguin Outdoor Learning Center. This and the Outdoor Challenge Rules and Resource Guide can be found in the “Contest” section of this page: <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/outdoor-education-living-skills/>

The 10 events for 2018 are:

• Shotgun

• Off-road Biking

• Archery

• Fishing

• Climbing

• Kayaking

• Rifle

• Biologist Skills

• Gear Judging

• Outdoor Safety

There are a few changes to this year’s rules, which have been highlighted in the Outdoor Challenge Rules and Resource Guide. Please advise your teams and coaches to review that document fully. Notably, there are changes to rifle and fishing.

New this year, we will be limiting registration to the first 50 teams (100 youth). This means that both members of the team must be registered on 4-H Connect to be considered in this count. Registration will open on May 1 and close on May 30.

***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