**4-H Blast**

February 23, 2018

* **February 25:** Shooting Sports Meeting, 2pm New Salem Rockdale
* **February 27:** Consumer Practice, 6pm, Bea’s Kitchen
* **March 3:** District Consumer Contest
* **March 14:** Ronald McDonald House Spring Break Service Project
* **March 15:** Texas Brigades Deadline
* **March 22-24:** MCJLS
* **March 23:** Navarro Consumer Contest

***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!

* **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!!! If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please call or email the Extension Office!

***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 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!

***District Roundup:***

Roundup is not a roundup of cows but rather a Roundup of all sorts of 4-H talent and speaking opportunities! There is public speaking, educational presentations, and Share the Fun Talent. If you are interested in any of these and want to participate in the 4-H Roundup on May 5th at District, please mark your calendar to attend the April 10th, Roundup Orientation Night at the Extension Office. We will go over each of the opportunities and then have a few kids give speeches to get the idea on how to do it. It will be fun and a great life skill to obtain!

***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 Brigades:*** Texas Brigades is accepting applications for the 7 wildlife and natural resource-based leadership camps for summer 2018. These youth programs are held across Texas and the limited spaces are filling up fast!

Texas Brigades is a wildlife and natural resource-focused leadership development organization for youth (ages 13-17). Each camp is an intense, all inclusive, five day experience led by some of the top wildlife and natural resource professionals in Texas. Approximately 200 youth from throughout the state of Texas are typically served.

2018 Camp Dates and Locations are:

– Rolling Plains Bobwhite Brigade, Centennial Lodge, Coleman, June 2-6.

– South Texas Buckskin Brigade, Welder Wildlife Refuge, Sinton, June 17-21.

– South Texas Bobwhite Brigade, Buck Horn Creek Ranch, McCoy, June 22-26.

– Bass Brigade, Warren Ranch, Santa Anna, July 6-10.

– Ranch Brigade, Warren Ranch, Santa Anna, July 16-20.

– Coastal Brigade, Sea Star Base, Galveston, July 17-21.

– North Texas Buckskin Brigade, Warren Ranch, Santa Anna, July 22-26.

Applications may be found and completed online at [https://www.texasbrigades.org](https://www.texasbrigades.org/) – due **March 15th**. The all-inclusive tuition is $500 per cadet per camp. Applications for tuition assistance are also available. Come enjoy the outdoors with Texas Brigades. For more information, contact Texas Brigades at camps@texasbrigades.org, call the office at 210-556-1391, or find us on Facebook, Twitter, and IG.

***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.

***Texas 4-H Congress:***

Texas 4-H Congress is just around the corner!! It will be held July 22-25th in Austin at the Capitol. Please see below the information about Congress. This is a great opportunity to learn about State Government and how it is ran. It is also a great leadership opportunity! Please sign up! Applications open on 4-H Connect so sign up quickly! To learn more about Texas 4-H Congress please click on this link: <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/events/congress/>

* February 12, 2018 Bill submission opens
* February 12, 2018 Lobbyist Application Open on 4HConnect
* February 12, 2018 Press Corps Online Opens on 4HConnect
* March 23, 2018 Lobbyist Application closes
* March 23, 2018 Press Corps Application closes
* March 30, 2018 Lobbyist and Press Corps Notification
* April 1, 2018 Early Bird Registration Opens on 4HConnect
* April 30, 2018 Early Bird Registration Closes on 4HConnect
* May 1, 2018 Registration Opens on 4HConnect

***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