**4-H Blast**

March 5, 2021

[www.join4h.com](http://www.join4h.com)

4-H Happenings Coming Up:

* **March 1-20:** Houston Livestock Show
* **March 5:** Vet Camp Deadline
* **March 6:** 4-H Fusion, Belton or Cleburne
* **March 7:** Shooting Sports, 2pm, Rockdale New Salem Bldg
* **March 8:** Cloverbuds Meeting, 5:30pm, Zoom
* **March 12:** Texas Volunteer Award Deadline
* **March 12-28:** Rodeo Austin
* **March 15:** TexasSpeaks Online Survey Deadline
* **March 15:** Beekeeping Essay Due
* **March 15:** Texas Brigades Deadline
* **March 22:** Photography Entries Due, 4-H Online
* **March 24-27:** Milam County Junior Livestock Show

***ENROLLMENT*** [www.join4h.com](http://www.join4h.com) Tell your friends to sign up!!! 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! Join us for 4-H fun!

PLEASE CHECK YOUR ENROLLMENT BEFORE YOU SUBMIT IT! If you are awaiting review, you are good! If it says resubmit or incomplete, you will need to finish before you can be approved!

***Eligibility Form:*** Please make sure that you are completing your eligibility forms before you go to the show. You will NOT be able to show unless you have enrolled online AND have a completed eligibility form. You must have them signed yourself and sent to the school and the school will send us your signed form if eligible. Please contact the office for a NEW form. 254-605-0226 and they can email you one.

***4-H Facebook:*** Do not forget we have a 4-H Facebook page!!!! We post 4-H Blasts, 4-H contest results and neat opportunities to do in 4-H! Make sure that you “see us first” in your settings. Step 1: Like the Page, Step 2: Click on 3 dots by search and like and then click Follow Settings, Step 3: set as favortie, Step 4: Click on Posts and choose STANDARD, Then you will see all 4-H posts when they arrive!

***Club/Project News:***

* **Milano 4-H Club:** Milano 4-H Club is ready for meetings! Please connect with their club by joining their Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1677500032472214> You need to enroll online to receive the zoom link!
* **Plant ID:** If you are interested in being in the 4-H Plant ID project, please email Irby McWiliams: irby.mcwilliams@icloud.com
* **Cameron 4-H Club Facebook Page:** Cameron 4-H Club has a new facebook page. Please like the new page for club news and information: <https://www.facebook.com/camerontx4hclub>
* **Thorndale 4-H Club:** **No February Meeting this month!**
* **Shooting Sports Club:** Anyone interested in shooting sports. There will be a meeting this Sunday, **March 7** @ 2:00 pm in Rockdale at the New Salem Bldg. Please pass the info on if you know someone interested. COVID protocols will be followed.

***ATTENTION:*** All 4-H members and families MUST sign a COVID 19 Screening form when you attend a 4-H event/club meeting. You can grab these at: <https://counties.agrilife.org/mc4h/files/2020/08/Screening-Letter-COVID-19-Youth-Overnight-events-6.12.20.pdf> or complete them ONLINE. Remember ALL adults and youth MUST complete a form if they are attending the meeting. <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=CljXn3JknE2hQtEx06ehFjaDcnkTVElDqZP2GyoRUPlUN1NYQVI1WjVWTUFVVjQ2V0Y0UkVISFhBRi4u>

They will have a few at the meeting if you forget it. Please wear your mask and practice social distancing at the 4-H club meetings. If you are attending an online meeting, the screening forms are not needed.

***4-H Consumer Project Meetings:***

All meetings will be: 5-6pm Lesson: All; 6-8pm Reasons: Intermediates/Seniors unless otherwise noted.

* March 11- Zoom (for now unless we get a chance to meet in person)
* March 23- TBA
* April 1- County Contest, Place- TBA
* April 7- Zoom
* April 15- TBA
* April 19- District Contest
* May- Central TX Consumer Contest

***Milam County Junior Livestock Show:*** The Rules have been updated and posted on the website. Baked goods will be added later. <https://counties.agrilife.org/mc4h/4-h-projects/milam-county-junior-livestock-show/>

**March 24-28, 2021**

After **February 11**, late entries will be accepted until **March 24th** for an ADDITIONAL $100.00 per entry.

***District/State Photography Contest:***

All entries are due to 4-H Online by 5:00 p.m. on **March 22nd** for Junior, Intermediates, and Seniors.

Items to be done by March 22th:

Enter Photos on 4-H ONLINE (DOES NOT OPEN UNTIL MONDAY, MARCH 8th!!!)

1 picture per category

Enter Picture on 4-H Connect (see guidelines on website for category, size, and name of file for each)

$5 per photo (if your photo does not go to district, you will not be charged for the photo. If it advances to district all fees will not be put on your card until approval of the pictures to district on/before April 1)

Eligibility Form (filled out and sent to school)

For more information: <https://counties.agrilife.org/mc4h/projects/photography-contests/>

CLOVERBUDS PHOTOS: Cloverbuds will be able to enter FREE of charge into the photo contest- please enter your entries here: <https://forms.gle/FQq2ngrqQSWcF76S9> (CLOVERBUDS ONLY). Deadline is the same (March 22)- Categories are different than other age brackets because some have been combined or eliminated. Please use category descriptions on website above. Cloverbuds will not advance to District/State. Please Rename PHOTOS with name and category!

***Cloverbuds Project Group:*** Cloverbuds project group will be meeting monthly on zoom and learning about all kinds of fun projects and activities!

Cloverbuds are Kindergarteners, 1st graders, and 2nd graders

2nd Monday, 5:30pm-6:30pm, ZOOM

Next Meeting: **March 8** Topic: Personal Development

You MUST SIGN up on 4-H Online to be on the Zoom!

For more information on Cloverbuds, please see the website: <https://counties.agrilife.org/mc4h/4-h-clover-kids-k-2nd-grade/>

This month you will need to bring:

* Mini Tube of toothpaste
* Plate

Show and Tell:

Bring something that makes you happy!!!

***4-H Contest Opportunities:***

* District Fashion Show:
	+ Contest: April 20th
	+ Deadline: March 19th
	+ Location: Virtual
	+ How to enter: email mlholcombe@ag.tamu.edu
* District Duds to Dazzle:
	+ Contest: April 19th
	+ Deadline: March 19th
	+ Location: Cleburne
	+ How to enter: email mlholcombe@ag.tamu.edu
* District Fashion Storyboard
	+ Contest: April 19th
	+ Deadline: March 19th
	+ Location: Virtual
	+ How to enter: email mlholcombe@ag.tamu.edu
* District Consumer Contest:
	+ County Contest: April 1st (Must compete for District)
	+ Dist Contest: April 19
	+ Location: Cleburne
	+ How to enter: email mlholcombe@ag.tamu.edu
* North Texas Whizbang:
	+ Contest: Sat. March 27
	+ More info: The 4-H Shotgun Sports Club of Grayson County will be hosting a whizbang contest on Saturday, March 27th in Whitesboro, Texas. Please let your shotgun coaches know about this opportunity. Event registration can be found at <https://grayson.agrilife.org/ntwb>
* District 4-H Food Challenge- Jr and Intermediate Contest
	+ Contest: May 19th
	+ Deadline to register: April 12th
	+ County Contest if needed: April 26th
	+ Location for Dist: Bell County Expo, Belton
	+ How to enter: email mlholcombe@ag.tamu.edu
* Virtual Bass Fishing Skill-a-thon Contest
	+ Open to ALL 4-H members including Cloverbuds
	+ Contest Dates: April 10, 17, 24
	+ Deadline to Register: March 12th
	+ Can be: Individual, Team, or Both
	+ Join here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1202432833284039/>
	+ Registration will open on 4-H Online at 8:00 a.m. on March 1, 2021. Go to 4-H Online at https://texas.4honline.com and select 2021 4-H Virtual Fishing - Bass from the event list and submit your entry fee(s).
		- Entry to 4-H Online is due by April 8, 2021 to participate in the April 10th tournament. Only those registered on 4-H Online by the deadline will be eligible to participate.
		- 4-H Online will reopen again on April 12th for registration for the April 17th tournament (you only need to register if you did not register for the first tournament) and close at 11:59 pm on April 16th.
		- 4-H Online will reopen again on April 19th for registration for the April 24th tournament (you only need to register if you did not register for the first or second tournament) and close at 11:59 pm on April 23rd.

***Delegate at Large Information- State 4-H Council:***

Application Deadline: **April 1st**

Interested? Look here: **https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/ambassadors/** and will be listed under Texas 4-H Council.

***Healthy Texas Youth Ambassador Program Taking Applications:***

The Healthy Texas Youth Ambassador program is seeking motivated, passionate, and hard-working teens to improve the lives of Texans!

This program is designed for high school age youth (grades 9-12) who have a passion for health and wellness.

**Who’s Eligible?**

Youth do not have to be current 4-H members but must join 4-H for the 2021-22 year.

Eligibility requirements include:

• Be in at least the 9th grade at beginning of the 2021-2022 school year.

• Submit online application by **May 1, 2021** (<https://agrilife.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3RisvLKymQZoPps> )

• Have an interest and passion to serve others in health education which includes nutrition, physical activity, passenger safety, and safe environments!

***Texas 4-H Volunteer Awards:***

Nominations are now open online through Formsite to recognize volunteers, donors, and AgriLife personnel for their continued commitment to the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program. These can be supporters (individuals, couples, businesses, organizations) who assist at the county, district, regional, or state level. The six recognition categories are:

• Leader Legacy

• Citation for Outstanding Service

• 4-H Alumni

• Commendable Service

• Meritorious Service

• Salute to Excellence

ONLINE FORMSITE SUBMISSION LINK: https://fs4.formsite.com/state4h/form226/form\_login.html

Texas 4-H website Awards & Recognition page: https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/awards/

(Volunteer Recognition Packet and previous winners are posted on this website.)

NEW! RECOGNITION

Due to constraints related to the Covid-19 pandemic, there will be no face-to-face recognition luncheon or event in College Station during Roundup. Honorees will be presented their awards locally and recognized state-wide through media efforts. Creative, exciting ideas are being planned to ensure this year’s award winners still feel the excitement and honor of receiving this award.

PRIOR HONOREES

A list of prior award winners is attached and can be found on the Texas 4-H website on the Awards & Recognition page as well as on the Formsite submission page. Please review this list to ensure the person you are nominating has not been honored with the award previously. An award can only be presented one-time to an individual and/or supporter.

Please take a few minutes and nominate individuals or groups for their efforts. I know it’s a busy time of year for most of us, but we all know the value of our volunteers and donors, so please don’t miss the opportunity to publicly recognize them! And don’t hesitate to nominate someone you may have nominated in the past, but was not selected to receive the award. We usually have more nominees than we have awards to present.

Online nominations accepted: **Friday, March 12, 2021**

Announcement of winners: Late April

***TexasSpeaks Online Survey:***

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service has a rich history of providing educational programs that address the most critical issues in Milam County. In order to make sure that the programs being planned for the future are on target we invite your participation in TexasSpeaks.

TexasSpeaks is a community assessment survey for citizens to identify the strengths and needs of their communities, and is the first step to understanding timely resources that improve the lives of Texans.

Your opinion is highly valued in our community, so we hope you can provide your input and share the TexasSpeaks community assessment widely. Our expectation is that the assessment will take about 10 minutes, and we thank you for your time.

You can provide your input by going to the following <http://tx.ag/texasspeaks> or by scanning the QR code here:



***National Beekeeping Essay Contest:***

4-H members do not have to have a bee project to participate in the essay contest.

The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc. has announced their 2021 4-H Beekeeping Essay Topic. This year’s Topic is

2021 Essay Topic: Immunity: Threats to Bee Colonies and Methods to Defend Against the Threats

Honey bee colonies have developed many ways to stay healthy. Their immune responses range from behaviors such as grooming to using materials such as propolis, a plant-derived substance bees coat on the interior of a hive for antimicrobial purposes. Even the gut of the honey bee contains beneficial bacteria to help the bee stay healthy!

In your essay, name at least two threats (a parasite such as Varroa, a pathogen such as a virus, a predator such as a bear, etc.) to honey bee colonies and then discuss the methods colonies use to defend against the threats. If possible, include at least one picture you have taken from Feb. 2020-Feb. 2021 that illustrates how colonies manage to stay healthy against a variety of threats.

It can be found at <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/entomology/> Essays will be uploaded at no fee on 4HOnline using the “2021 4-H Beekeeping Essay Contest” event. Deadline to submit is **Monday, March 15**. Winners will be announced the week of April 5th.

***Vet Camp:***

The Veterinary Science Certificate Program will be offering 3 2021 Summer camps. The goal of the Texas 4-H Veterinary Science Camp is to provide experiential learning opportunities for students participating in the Veterinary Science Certification Program (VSCP). Students will learn and practice clinical skills on large and small animals under the supervision of a veterinarian.

This year the camps will be at Texas A&M Kingsville June 7-9, Texas A&M University **June 14-16**, and West Texas A&M July 12-14. The link for the camp application will be available Monday February 1st and the deadline will be no later than **March 5th** by 5pm. We will announce selection by March 19th. Cost is $400 (includes room, meals, and materials). Age Requirements: 4-H member 12—18 years old as of September 1, 2020. For more information you can contact Tyler Vogel at tyler.vogel@ag.tamu.edu.

***Texas 4-H Outdoor Challenge:***

The Texas 4-H Outdoor Challenge will be held **June 20-21, 2021** in Brownwood, Texas, at the 4-H Center. Click on the link below for more information about cost, schedule, registration, and more. See you there! <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kQDZm4Zp6rJmgdKrNp6jpQ0H_ClFbTun/view>

***Texas 4-H Center Summer Camp:***

Are you ready for Texas 4-H Summer Camps?

Texas 4-H Summer Camp Registration

will open **February 1, 2021**!!

Registration is on our website, [www.texas4hcenter.tamu.edu](http://www.texas4hcenter.tamu.edu). Click the green register now button on the right hand side of the screen, then click on 2021 Summer Camps, and then select the camp(s) you and your campers will attend this year!

***Texas 4-H Brigades:***

We have TWO Bobwhite Brigade camps in June! Come learn how this 6-ounce bird changes lives, steers passions, and creates opportunities! How much do you know about quail? Did you know they are grassland birds that eat insects and seeds, and have tactics to survive the Texas heat? Apply now to join us this summer: <https://www.texasbrigades.org/applications/>

There are so many opportunities to volunteer, study, experience, and work in nature! At camp, participants connect with others who are passionate about natural resources & wildlife conservation. Instructors share that passion through hands-on demonstrations, activities, and sessions. Expand your connection to wildlife and the outdoors.

Do not wait until it is too late! Apply by the deadline: **March 15th.**

***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