



Austin County 4-H News

Spring 2015

Agent's Corner

By the time this newsletter reaches you, I hope that this Texas weather has straightened out. I laugh because we both know that will never happen. In the last week I have experienced 85 degree weather and 35 degree weather all in a period of three days as I traveled to the San Antonio Livestock Show and prepare now for the Houston Livestock Show.

Spring is an exciting time of year, especially in the Extension Office, but I wanted to take some time to say thank you and farewell to Dr. Philip Shackelford. Philip will be missed by many here in Austin County as he starts a new chapter of his life and begins his new role as Extension Specialist and Assistant Professor at Texas A&M University. I have known Philip since he moved to Austin County in 2000. While I did not participate as heavily in 4-H as I did in FFA, I knew Philip and have several distinct memories that I can truly say shaped my life and have gotten me to where I am today; and I'd like to share one with you.

In March, 2001, I was at the Washington County Fairgrounds during the Houston Livestock Show Pig Sift. Being 14, I was trying to figure out what I wanted to do when I grew up. After spotting Philip, I started asking questions about what exactly an agent does and how does one become an agent. Like a true agriculture enthusiast, he took the time to talk to me. I found what he shared with me to be very interesting. After that day, anytime Philip saw me he would take the time to speak to me. From that one brief moment, a relationship was built that lasted through my high school years and well into my college years. He would continually asked me if I was thinking about coming to work for Extension and encouraged me to finish my Master's Degree so I would have that out of the way. After completing my undergraduate degree, I began teaching Ag. After six years of teaching, I received a message from Philip telling me that Austin County was going to have a position for a 4-H agent. Eagerly, I filled out the required application and was hired. If it were not for Philip taking the time to talk to a curious 14 year old kid, I would not be here today. I have had the honor and privilege to know Philip as a 4-H member, a friend, a co-worker and a colleague and can honestly say I have never known anyone finer than Dr. Philip Shackelford. Thank you Dr. Shackelford for everything you have done for Austin County AgriLife Extension, Austin County 4-H, and for everything you have done for me.

State Fair of Texas Sheep and Goat Tags

It's that time of year again to order State Fair Lamb and Goat Tags. You must complete an order form and include payment before tags are ordered. Tag orders are due in the Austin County AgriLife Extension office by 5:00pm, **Friday April 10th**. The cost of the tags will be \$10. An order form is attached to this newsletter. **No tags will be ordered without a completed order form and payment.**

Major Show Steer Tags

Even though Major Shows are not over for this year, it's time to start thinking about next year. Major show steer tag orders will be due in the Austin County AgriLife Extension office no later than 5:00pm, **Friday April 10th**. The cost of the tags will be \$10. An order form is attached to this newsletter. **No tags will be ordered without a completed order form and payment.**

State Fair Market Barrow Tags

Attached you will find a State Fair Market Barrow tag order form. The deadline to turn in tag orders will be announced as soon as that date has been released from the State Swine Validation Chairman. The cost of the tags will be \$10. **No tags will be ordered without a completed order form and payment.** Please be looking for an email with the deadline information.

Austin County Fair Turkey Orders

Attached you will find an order form for Austin County Fair turkeys. Orders are due in the Austin County AgriLife Extension office no later than 5:00pm, **Friday April 10th**. There is **no exception** to this rule. Birds will be \$6.10 and can be bought in increments of 5 with a maximum of 40 birds. **No Cash.**

Austin County Fair Broiler Orders

Attached you will find an order form for Austin County broilers. Orders are due in the Austin County AgriLife Extension office no later than **Friday May 8th** by 5:00 pm. There is **no exception** to the rule. Birds will be \$1.90 with a minimum order of 50 birds and a maximum of 100 birds. **No Cash.**

Goat Project Meeting

There will be a goat project Meeting on **Tuesday, April 7th** at 6:30 pm at the Texas AgriLife Extension Office meeting room. We will be reviewing fair rules, selection and feeding basics at this meeting. This is a great learning experience and I encourage anyone showing at the fair to come to this meeting.

Ag in the Classroom

Ag in the Classroom will be held on **Monday, April 27th** and is sponsored by Austin County Farm Bureau. I am looking for 12 4-H members in grades 9-12 to assist in being group leaders for this event. The 12 members that are selected will be excused from school that day to help. This is a great opportunity to put in the 4-H recordbook. Please contact the Austin County AgriLife Extension office at 979-865-2072 or email me at travis.gonzales@ag.tamu.edu by April 13th if you would like to participate.

Ag Safety Day

Ag Safety Day will be held on **Thursday, May 14th** and will be conducted by Austin County AgriLife Extension Service. I am looking for 10-20 4-H volunteers 7th- 12th grade to help facilitate this event. This is a great opportunity to put in the 4-H recordbook. Please contact the Austin County AgriLife Extension office at 979-865-2072 or email me at travis.gonzales@aq.tamu.edu by May 1st if you would like to participate.

Austin County 4-H Bull Blowout

The Bull Blowout is scheduled for **Sunday, April 26th**, gates open at 12:00pm and the bull riding will begin at 3:00pm. I would ask that parents help work the concession stand again this year as they have in the years past. Please contact the Austin County AgriLife Extension office if you would like to sign up to volunteer.

Horse Validation

Anyone interested in showing a horse this year at the District or State Horse Show must validate their animal before **May 1, 2015**. Please visit <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/livestock-species/equine/state-4h-show/> for instructions on how to register your horses.

Livestock Projects

Just a reminder that if you need help finding a livestock project for the Austin County Fair please contact the Austin County AgriLife Extension Office and I would be happy to assist you. Once you get your animal home, I will continue to make project visits throughout the feeding period. Please be checking the newspapers for updates on project meetings. These project meetings are a great way to learn and will help you become more successful exhibiting your livestock projects.

4-H FCS Project Planning Meeting

There will be a FCS Focus Group (Project Planning) meeting on **Monday, April 13th**. In order for all 4-Hers to have a successful experience, we would like to plan some activities for the coming year. Parents, as well as 4-Hers are encouraged to attend this planning meeting. We will plan programs for Food and Nutrition, Food Challenge, Fashion Show, Storyboard, Consumer Decision Making and Photography. Hope you can join us!!

4-H Council and Parent/Leader Association Meetings

The next 4-H Council and Parent/Leader Association Meeting will be held on **Thursday, May 7** at 7pm. The meeting will be held at the Bellville Volunteer Fire Department.

Rock the Square

Austin County 4-H will be participating in the Rock the Square event in Bellville on **Saturday, March 28**. Austin County 4-H will be working the drink stand and earning the profits from the booth. We are in need of volunteers to help man the booths. Please call or email me, if you are interested in working a shift at the booth.

Livestock Judging Schedule

Houston

Contest Date: Monday, March 16th

Registration: 11 am

Contest Time: 12:30 pm

Please be there by 11 am

Meeting to assign parking passes and have a short practice will be on March 10th at the Extension office at 5:30pm

Austin

Contest Date: Thursday, March 26th

Registration: 8am

Contest: 9:30 am

Please be there by 8 am

Meeting for Austin and short practice March 24th at the Extension office at 5:30 pm

TAMU Judging Clinic

Contest Date: Saturday, March 28th

Registration: 7am

Contest Time: 8am

Please be there by 7am

Practice Schedule

Tuesday, March 31st

Tuesday, April 14th

Tuesday, April 21st

All Practices will be at 5:30pm at the Extension office.

Austin County Fair Tag in Dates

Steers/Heifers/Pen of Two Heifers

Saturday, April 25th 2015

8:00am to 10:00 am

4-County Livestock Auction Barn, Industry

Horse Division

Monday, April 6 - 6:00 p.m.

Horse Project

Registration and Mandatory Weigh In & Evaluation @ Rice Ranch

Swine

Saturday, July 11th 2015

6:00am – 8:00 am

Austin County Fairgrounds

&

Saturday, July 18th 2015

6:00am – 8:00 am

Austin County Fairgrounds

Lambs/Goats
Saturday, July 11th 2015
7:00am-10:00am
Austin County Fairgrounds
&
Thursday July 16th 2015
6:30pm – 8:00 pm
Austin County Fairgrounds

Travis Gonzales
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***Be sure to check out our website at <http://austin.agrilife.org>.
We are currently in the process of updating and will be
finished in a few weeks.***

***Please visit our site for the latest and most up-to-date
information. You can also find all the forms that are
included in this newsletter there as well.***