**Holiday Classic and the Tri-County Cattle Gathering**

It is once again time for the Holiday Classic; this year will mark the 26th Annual Holiday Classic Beef, Lamb, Goat and Swine Clinic and Prospect Show. This year’s Holiday Classic will be November 3-4th, at the Belton County Expo in Belton. The Holiday Classic Clinics and Prospect Shows are intended to provide an educational opportunity for new families (4-H & FFA) participating in the livestock project area. The main purpose is to teach the basic principles of livestock management as they relate to facility maintenance, selection, nutrition, animal health, handling, showmanship, and transportation.

Families bring their cattle, lambs, swine, and goats to learn more about the responsibilities that are attributed to exhibiting livestock. During the two day program, experts in livestock and youth development provide educational, hands-on training for these families in both group and individual settings.  After the group and one-on-one trainings, the youth have the opportunity to exhibit their projects for practice and receive advice on how to care for their projects.  The Holiday Classic is unique because it is completely free to the families with all expenses being paid through local sponsorships.

This clinic is truly an excellent opportunity for all youth regardless of skill level, the event is open to all 4-H and FFA youth. Please give us a call if you have questions.

**Tri-County Cattle Gathering**

Comanche, Erath and Hamilton counties are working together to provide a new beef production program for area producers. The Tri-County Cattle Gathering will be held at the Dublin Sale Barn on Tuesday, October 23rd from noon until 3:00 PM. Some of the topics will include Cattle handling and chute-side manners and what is the buyer looking for? We have Dr. Jason Cleere and Dr. Ron Gill Texas A&M Beef Cattle and Animal Science Specialist presenting at the program. The program including lunch is being sponsored by the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association and the Texas Beef Council. If possible please RSVP to your local county agents office by October 19th. This will be an excellent meeting, there will be no charge, and everyone is welcome.