**Deaf Smith County 4-H News**

**July 30, 2015**

* **The main fundraising project** of the 4-H Parents Association is the Polaris 4-Wheeler Raffle, which provides general funding to support local 4-H youth as they participate in project activities, camps and contests. Each 4-H member is asked to help with ticket sales. Only 300 $50-tickets are sold and the winner will be named at the Annual 4-H Achievement Banquet on **Sunday, Sept. 27**. Please come by the 4-H office as soon as possible to pick up your packet of tickets to sell.

* **Sheep & Goat Tags:** If you plan to show a lamb or goat at a major stock show in the spring of 2016, it’s time to order tags. Cost: $15 each.  **DEADLINE to ORDER: Friday, Aug. 7.**
* **Stock Show Entries:** If you are planning to show animals in the Tri-State or West Texas (Abilene) Fairs, the deadline for submitting your entries is **Aug. 7**. If you want to show at State Fair, we need your entries by **Aug. 18**.
* **New officers:** Congratulations and thanks to the new officers of County 4-H Council and the Parents Association for the coming year. Leading County Council are: Marco Mata, president; Emily Turpen, vice president; Rachael Detten, secretary, Veronica Mata, secretary; and Brenden James and Turner Taylor, District delegates. At the helm of the Parents Association will be Shelia Wagner, president; Tamara Mimms, vice president; Jean Turpen, secretary; and Mike Schueler, treasurer.
* **Club Leaders Needed:** At this time, we do not have club managers for the following project groups for the coming year: **Clothing Club, Horse Club** and **Consumer.** We still need adult volunteers who are willing to lead 4-6 seasonal club meetings/activities during the coming year. For more information, please contact our office.

The clubs and project groups that have committed club managers for next year are: **Clover Kids** (Erin Baird), **Livestock** (Jessica Detten), **Community Club** (Rick Auckerman & Amalia Mata), **Rabbit** (Jean Turpen), **Shooting Sports** (Rick Auckerman & Lanny Redwine), **Food** (Tamara Mimms & Jaime Brorman), **Public Speaking** (Kerrie Steiert), **Livestock Judging** (Scott & Moriah Pohlman) and **County Council** (Kerrie Steiert).

Project groups that meet during the fall months include: Rabbit, Livestock, Food & Fun, Shooting Sports (safety training) and County Council.

* **Enrollment: Opens Sept. 1st  -** 4-H enrollment opens for the new 4-H year (2015-16) on [4-H Connect](https://texas.4honline.com/). **This year, please be aware that the annual enrollment fees will not be paid this year by the Parents Association. *Each family will be responsible for their own enrollment costs of $20 per child ($25 after Oct. 31).*** The Parents Association will generously continue to pay contest participation fees during the coming year for those members who sell 4-Wheeler tickets (sales underway now). The Association will also help with Camp/Retreat fees, but not cover the total costs. You can also enroll by picking up the necessary forms at the 4-H office.

* **New Age Divisions:** Effective with the new 4-H Year signup (August 15, 2015 to September 30, 2016) Texas 4-H will have new membership eligibility based on SCHOOL GRADE and not age.  The new eligibility rules and guidelines are: Youth may participate in 4-H year from September 1st of grade three through August 31 following completion of grade twelve, with these age restrictions: Minimum age - 8 (in addition to being in the 3rd grade); Maximum age - 18 (as of August 31, 2015)

**4-H Member Categories:**

Juniors:  Grades 3, 4, and 5

Intermediates:  Grades 6, 7, and 8

Seniors:  Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12

**Clover Kids:** Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd grade (Limited participation; cannot compete)

**IMPORTANT 4-H DATES:**

**\*Local activities highlighted in green**

               **NOW: Come by the County office to get your 4-Wheeler tickets to sell (5 tickets per 4-H member)**

SATURDAY, AUG. 1 – TCFA Fed Beef Challenge at WTAMU, 8:30 a.m.

               MONDAY, AUG. 3 – State Record Book judging

               **FRIDAY, AUG. 7 – DEADLINE: To order sheep or goat tags for major stock shows**

**FRIDAY, AUG 7 - DEADLINE: Entries due to County office for Tri-State Fair & West Texas Fair (Abilene) stock shows**

               **TUESDAY, AUG 18 – DEADLINE: Stock show entries due to County office for State Fair**

               MONDAY, AUGUST 24 – HISD first day of school

               WEDNESDAY, AUG. 26 – County Council (all 4-H youth, 3rd-12th grade, welcome) 5:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 1 – 4-H Enrollment for 2015-16 opens ON 4-H Connect ($20 per child before Oct. 31)

               *MONDAY, SEPT. 7 – Labor Day: County offices closed*

               SEPT. 11-19 – West Texas Fair & Rodeo in Abilene

SEPT. 18-26 – Tri-State Fair in Amarillo

               SUNDAY, SEPT. 20 – Regional Rabbit Project Kickoff in Canyon (All 4-H families welcome)

               MONDAY, SEPT 21 – Food Fight at the Fair

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 23 – County Council (all 4-H youth, 3rd-12th grade, welcome) 5:30 p.m.

               SEPT. 25-Oct. 18 – State Fair of Texas, Dallas

SEPT. 25-OCT. 3 – South Plains Fair, Lubbock

               SUNDAY, SEPT. 27 – Annual 4-H Achievement Banquet, noon

               OCTOBER 4-10 – National 4-H Week

               MID-OCTOBER – One Day in 4-H community service project

               OCTOBER 19-22 – HISD Testing

WEDNESDAY, OCT 28 – County Council (all 4-H youth, 3rd-12th grade, welcome) 5:30 p.m.

               NOV. 6-7 – District Fall Round-Up: Quiz Bowls, Food contests, SET poster contest, Skill-A-Thon, Ag Product ID

               *NOVEMBER 11 – Veteran’s Day: County offices closed*

               *NOV. 26-27 – Thanksgiving Holiday: County offices closed*

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 2 – County Council (all 4-H youth, 3rd-12th grade, welcome) 5:30 p.m.

               *DEC. 24-25 – Christmas holiday: County offices closed*

We always welcome your questions, comments and concerns. Please contact us as needed.

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to

race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status.