**4-H Blast**

**February 8, 2017**

* **February 8**: Thorndale MCJLS Sign Up Night
* **February 8**: 4-H Day at the Capitol
* **February 10:** Bell County Youth Fair Vet Science Skillathon
* **February 13:** Consumer Project Meeting, 6pm, Bea’s Kitchen (Intermediates and Seniors Practice)
* **February 15:** Boiler Pick Up, 4-5:30pm, YEB
* **February 16:** Ag Product ID Practice, 4pm, Ag Shop, Thorndale
* **February 18-19:** Varmint Hunt, see below for info

CONGRATULATIONS to all the winners at the Major Shows!!! Keep up the great work and represent Milam County 4-H well! Good luck to all of those participating!

***MCJLS/MAJOR SHOW 4-H LIVESTOCK NEWS:***

* Website for rules and entry form: <http://counties.agrilife.org/mc4h/4-h-projects/milam-county-junior-livestock-show/>
* Mkt. Bunnies will be tattooed ------------------------ **February 20**, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. (subject to change).
* MCJLS Broilers Pick-Up, **February 15**, 4-5:30pm, YEB
* Major Show Passes are in!!! Come and get them if you ordered them!!!
* If you would like a site visit from Floyd to see your animals before major shows, please call the Extension Office and set up an appointment (254-697-7045).

***Milam County Junior Livestock Show Entry Nights:***

* Tuesday, **February 7**: Rockdale (YOU MISSED IT!)
* Wednesday, **February 8**: Thorndale
* Monday, **February 20**: Cameron
* **February 20**: FINAL Deadline
* **After February 20**, late entries will be accepted until March 30th for an ADDITIONAL $100.00 per entry.

***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, 2016-March 1, 2017**
* Make sure you SIGN the sign in/attendance sheet when you first arrive at the meeting

***CLUB NEWS:***

Shooting Sports News:

* Shooting sports meeting dates (See below)
* Our 4H fundraiser (a Varmint Hunt to be held on Feb 18th and 19th)
* We are now shooting Postal League.  It isn't too late to compete in this state competition.
* Registration for March Madness is now open on iClays

Shooting Sports Dates:

Meeting Dates (\* denotes shoot-only days – no business meeting)

• February 5, 2017

• February 26, 2017

• March 5, 2017\*

• March 26, 2017

• April 9, 2017

• April 23, 2017

• May 14, 2017

Thorndale 4-H Meeting: **February 27th**, 6pm (SEE NEW TIME!)

***AG Product ID Project Practice:***

Everyone is invited to join a new team! We will hold the first practice meeting of the Milam County Agriculture Product ID Team on Thursday, February 16th at 4:00 at the Ag. Shop in Thorndale. The practice will last from 4 to 5. This is a contest opportunity where 4-Hers identify and learn facts about products grown in the state of Texas. Our district contest will be on Friday, April 21st in Stephenville. If you have any questions please contact Cindy Widner at cdjw1978@gmail.com. We hope to see you there!

***Shooting Sports Club Varmint Hunt:***

The Milam County 4-H Shooting Sports Club is holding a fundraiser February 18-19, 2017. This will be our first Varmint Hunt fundraiser. This is a 24 hour hunting competition. Prizes will be based on a 60-40 split with 60% going towards prize money and 40% going to the club. It is going to be held at the Buckholts SPJST Hall in Buckholts, Texas and registration is from 10am -12pm on Saturday February 18, 2017. Teams must have all members present at registration as well as back again for check in by noon on Sunday the 19th. The rules will be read and teams dismissed by noon on Saturday. Teams have an entry fee of $150 and will consist of up to 4 members, and the team must hunt together. Teams can hunt mountain lions, coyotes, bobcats, red and gray foxes, as well as coons. There will be side pots for heaviest coyote, bobcat, coon and mangiest coyote at $20 each pot. There are door prizes to be given away at check in on Sunday morning. Please check the Milam County 4-H website and facebook pages for the flyer as well as the Milam County Agrilife website. We are very excited about this and hope to see lots of hunters come out and support our

Shooting Sports Club.

***Chris Holcombe Mardi Gras Fundraiser:*** The 5th annual "Mardi Gras” bash will be held Saturday, Feb. 25, 2017 at Simon George Hall, 401 S. Karnes, in Cameron. The event, which will start at 6 p.m., will include a Cajun food dinner, auctions including a gun raffle and activities for the kids. Adult tickets are $10 and children under 18 are $5. Tickets may be purchased at the Milam County Extension Office, the Rockdale Reporter, and Rodenbeck Farm & Ranch in Thorndale.

If you would like to donate items for this year's event please email us at cholcombememorial@gmail.com with a description or donations can be dropped off at Ideal Poultry in Cameron.

Over the past four years a total of $53,000 in scholarships has been given to college students from Milam County as as result of the Mardi Gras event. We thank you for your continued support! See you on **Feb. 25**.

Milam County 4-H will be helping set up for the fundraiser on Saturday at 10am. If you can come help, that would be great! Come and buy a ticket and have some fun!

***District Contest Opportunities:***

***4-H Photography Contest:*** The County Photo Contest for district and state will be held in March. Please see the website for all the information. Entries are due **March 27,2017**. <http://counties.agrilife.org/mc4h/projects/photography-contests/>

***District 8 4-H Fashion Show, Storyboard, Trashion Show, and Duds to Dazzle:*** These district contests will be held on **Tuesday, April 11, 2017** at the Bell County Expo Center in Belton. If you are interested in participating in one of these contests, please see our website for more details. Deadline for contacting our office will be **March 1st**. If interests are shown, we will either have a county contest or a work day to prepare. Please let us know if you are interested! <http://counties.agrilife.org/mc4h/projects/clothing-and-textiles-project/>

***County and District Roundup:*** County Roundup is still being planned but mark your calendar for **May 6th** for the District Roundup in Riesel! These are really fun contests for many to participate in. Here is the link to our website with more information. It is a great way to take your 4-H and School presentations/band performances and put them to use. Great public speaking skills too! <http://counties.agrilife.org/mc4h/projects/roundup-contest/>

***State 4-H Opportunities:*** Here are a few opportunities going on in the State 4-H Program! For more opportunities and information, see the website: <http://counties.agrilife.org/mc4h/state-4-h-opportunities/>

***4-H Coloring, Photography, and Art Contest:***

ATTENTION: Open to Clover Kids and all 4-H members- The Texas 4-H Youth Development Program is partnering with the Texas A&M Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory to help celebrate their 50th Anniversary of ensuring the safety of our state. To do this the TVMDL is sponsoring a coloring contest for Texas 4-H Clover Kids and an art and photography contest for 4-H members. The contest will run from **January 1, 2017 to April 1, 2017** and all entries are to be turned into the Extension Office and we will scan them and enter them on 4-H Connect. This does means that all Clover Kids and 4-H members will need to have an active profile in 4-H CONNECT to enter. To enter the contest and for more information, please go to: <http://counties.agrilife.org/mc4h/state-4-h-opportunities/>.

***Rodeo Austin School Tour Guides Needed:***

The Rodeo Austin School Tours Program is gearing up for another busy year! Last year, during the five days of school tours, School Tour Guides led over 6,000 school age children to educational exhibits around the rodeo grounds.

The dates for this year are March 20-24, 2017. We expect over 6,000 attendees and will need approximately 75 tour guides per day to handle the classes.

Rodeo Austin needs tour guides and helpers for this event. These volunteers should be age 13 and up. The tour guides will be assigned classes and tour routes. The helpers will assist School Tour Committee members with other duties to make this event enjoyable and successful for everyone. If you are interested, please call the office as soon as possible to request to help.

***Bell County Youth Fair Vet Science Skillathon*:** Bell County Youth Fair is having a vet science skillathon on **February 10th** at BCYF -- it is open to all 4-H and FFA from around the state. If you are interested, please call the County Extension Office and we will send you the information.

***Texas 4-H Roundup T-shirt Design Contest:*** This year's theme for Texas 4-H Roundup is "DREAM ON". We are seeking the help of 4-H members across the state to design this year's Commemorative Roundup T-shirt. The winning design will receive credit as the designer, their name and county will be noted on the shirt, as well as a $150 gift card. Deadline to submit is **February 28, 2017**. Submission is via FormSite at <https://fs4.formsite.com/state4h/tshirtdesign/index.html> Participation is open to any Texas 4-H member as verified through 4-H Connect Enrollment.

***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](http://www.Join4-h.com) or [www.facebook.com/milamcountyfourH](http://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