



# Gateway to 4-H

## Hill County 4-H Newsletter September 2011 Edition

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**Information Station**

### Hill County 4-H Council 2011-2012

**President**

Zane Stidham

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President**

James Bezdek

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President**

Hanna Sumrall

**Secretary**

Brazos McPeck

**Treasurer**

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Elizabeth Cooper

**Council Delegate**

Jarred Sparks

**Parliamentarian**

Mark Byrd

**Sheryl Raley**  
County Extension  
Agent –  
4-H & Youth  
Development



### **Congratulations to our State Record Book Winner!**

James Bezdek—5th Place, Senior Environmental Sciences

### **Congratulations to our State Horse Show Winner!**

Shane Campbell —10th Place, Western Pleasure

**We are so proud of you guys!**

### **Check out our new Hill County Website!**

**[hill.agrilife.org](http://hill.agrilife.org)**

**Everything will be posted here:  
Newsletters, contest information, stock show updates,  
and so much more!**



# 4-H Updates



## 4-H ANNUAL PARTICIPANT FEE

Since this year is the first year for 4-H participation fee, everyone will have to sign up for 4-H on the 4-H Connect Website [www.4honline.com](http://www.4honline.com). This will be strictly enforced this year. You will have to pay your participation fees on this site. If you need help with this, feel free to come by the extension office for assistance. Membership dues cost \$20 if enrolled from September 1st to October 31st. After October 31st, dues will cost \$25. If you do not remember your password for this site, we can reset it for you. This has to be done for your child to be a bona fide 4-H member. Thank you for understanding the reasoning behind this change in 4-H. Lets stay committed to giving our full support to the 4-H program!

It's PHOTOGRAPHY time! The District 8 Photography contest deadline is coming up in September! There are a few changes this year! This is now a digital photo contest. Meaning no more mounting photos. They will be emailed to the extension office [siraley@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:siraley@ag.tamu.edu) and digitally displayed at the Heart O' Texas Fair. The winning photographs will be on display at the Heart O' Texas Fair October 7-15.

The Information Packet will be posted on the website when it comes available.

**Entry Deadline in September 16, 2011**

There will be different divisions: Junior, Intermediate, and Senior. These are the new categories:

- PEOPLE
- ANIMALS - WILDLIFE
- ANIMALS - DOMESTIC
- MARINE/AQUATIC
- PLANT/FLORA
- ELEMENTS OF DESIGN
- NATURE & LANDSCAPE
- DETAILS & MACRO
- DIGITAL DARKROOM
- THEME
- NIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY
- FOOD
- DOMINANT COLOR
- CATCH-ALL



State Fair Ag Awareness Day (formerly Youth Leadership Day) will be Tuesday, October 11. I will have tickets available in my office for families who would like to attend. The day will start off with a Canned Food Drive starting at 8 a.m. Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. at the Swine Barn Arena. The AgriQuest Contest will start at 11:00 a.m.



The first County Council Meeting for the new 4-H year will be Tuesday, September 13th at the Extension Office. The meeting will start at 6:00 p.m. We will kick off our new year and discuss upcoming 4-H events and plan the 4-H year. Hope to see all my officers there!

We will have the first Food Challenge Practice on September 29, 2011. The next available practice will take place on Tuesday, October 18th. This will start at 5:30 p.m. at the Extension Office. If your club has a team already, that's great! If you do not have a team yet, then come to practice anyway and we can set up a team! Hope to see you there!

# 4-H Parents & Adult Volunteers

QUALITY COUNTS TRAINING IS NOW IN EFFECT!!

Quality Counts Verification is now active and ready to be used! Moving forward into the 2011-2012 Major Show Season, Quality Counts Verification will be a part of the process for entry in all major shows. This means youth exhibitors will need to demonstrate their knowledge of the Six Pillars of Character and the Eight Core Concepts presented in the Quality Counts Curriculum. To do this, they will need to pass an online test on the website

( <http://qualitycounts.tamu.edu/> ) and acquire a Quality Counts Verification number.

Hill County will offer several trainings throughout the fall to train all of our 4-H members on this curriculum. 4-H members must attend these trainings in order to take the verification test. Again, this is required for anyone wanting to participate at any 2012 Major Livestock Show. 4-H members must pass this test in order to even sign up for a major livestock show. The member must retake this test until it is passed.

Things you need to know about Verification:

\* 2011 - State Fair of Texas will implement Quality Counts Verification on a voluntary basis.

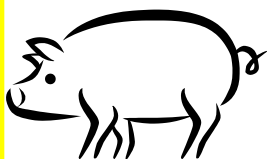
\* 2012 - All Major Livestock Shows in Texas will require Quality Counts Verification at the time of entry - This means youth will need to be verified prior to entry in the fall of 2011.

\* A Verification number is obtained by answering 80% of the questions correctly on an online test.

This will be strictly enforced and there will be no exceptions!

ATTENTION CLUB MANAGERS!! It is time to re-charter clubs once again. If you did not attend the Club Manager Training in July, then you will need to come by my office to pick up your club's re-charter packet. This is very important that every club completes this packet. These packets will have to be turned into me in September so don't put this off! Please contact me if you have any questions over the re-charter process.

## Livestock Project News



The Holiday Classic Livestock Show and Clinic is coming up! It is held at the Bell County Expo Center in Belton. The clinics will take place on Saturday, November 12. Species covered will be beef, swine, sheep and goats. The shows will take place on Sunday, November 13. There will be a showmanship show that will be divided by experience and not by age. This is a FREE event! Saturday night there will be a complimentary steak dinner!

Order your Major Show Broilers by October 7. This is for members who want to show chickens at San Antonio, Houston or Star of Texas (Austin). This is not for Hill County Broilers. Orders must be in increments of 25 with a maximum of 75 per exhibitor. Sharing birds within a family is not allowed. Cost is \$31.25/per box of 25 birds. Payment must be made at time of order. The pick-up date for San Antonio, Houston and Austin Broilers will be January 27.

The next available Quality Counts Trainings will take place on Monday, September 26th and Monday, October 17th, starting at 6:00 p.m., at the Extension Office. Remember, this is required before you can enter any major livestock show for 2012 year. This training will be limited to the first 50 participants to register. You must sign up to take this training at least a week in advance!

The Heart O' Texas Fair will be held October 6-15, 2011. The entry night for exhibitors to sign up will be September 6th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. This is the last day to turn in entries to the Extension Office.  
**NO EXCEPTIONS!**

With the Heart O' Texas Fair right around the corner, it's time to start practicing Livestock Judging again! The first practice of the year will be on Thursday, September 1st starting at 6:00 p.m. The second judging practice will take place on Tuesday, September 27th starting at 6:00 p.m.

Attention heifer exhibitors! If you plan on showing your heifer at the Heart O' Texas Fair, your heifer must have been registered under your name by June 30, 2011, to show in the Jr. Show. If your heifer was registered under your name after that date, you may only enter the Jackpot Show at the Heart O' Texas Fair. All other major livestock shows require the registration date be on or before November 1, 2011. You must have your heifer registered to the exhibitor before this date!!



The Heart O' Texas Fair and Rodeo is now accepting Calf Scramble applications. If you catch a calf during the calf scramble, you will receive a certificate to purchase a breeding animal for the next show year. You must be 12 years old by September 20, 2011 and not be past your junior year in high school. Let me know if you want to compete!!

Order your chickens today for the Hill County Fair. The cost will be \$1.40/per bird with a minimum order of 25 birds. We will also include a \$1 fee for every box of 25 birds. Ideal Poultry has started charging for these boxes the birds come in. Making the total cost of 25 birds \$36. The pick-up date will be in December.

Order deadline is October 14th at the Extension office.  
Payment must be included or we will not order your birds!



## IMPORTANT VALIDATION DATES



It is that time again to order Major Show Swine Tags. The cost is \$9 per tag. Tag orders must be in to me by September 19. You must pay for these tags at the time you order them or we will not order your tags! The validation date for county swine is set for October 25 at the Hill County Fair Grounds. Major Show Swine Validation will be at a later date.

County and Major Show Validation for Lambs and Goats will take place Tuesday, October 25th, at the Hill County Fair Grounds. It will start at 3:30 p.m. Bring with you your signed Ethics Policy to speed up the process! County tags will cost \$2/per tag.  
We will also validate all Major Show Breeding Sheep this day.



# Important Dates



## September

- 1 Livestock Judging Practice
- 6 HOT Fair Entry Night
- 13 County Council Meeting
- 16 Photography Contest entry deadline
- 19 Major Swine Tag Order deadline
- 26 Quality Counts Training
- 27 Livestock Judging Practice
- 29 Food Challenge Practice

## October

- 7 Major Show Broiler order deadline
- 11 State Fair Ag Awareness Day
- 14 Hill County Fair Broiler order deadline
- 17 Quality Counts Training
- 18 Food Challenge Practice
- 25 Lamb & Goat Validation, County Swine Validation

## November

- 12&13 Holiday Classic—Belton

~Look For More Important Dates To Come~