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Colorado County 4-H Newsletter

March/April 2013

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<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Colorado-County/161170703915573>



Colorado County 4-H Members Are Successful At S.A.L.E.

Colorado County 4-H members were busy during the month of February participating at the Fort Worth and San Antonio Livestock Shows showing their animals and judging in contests.

Jacob Valenta and Emily Mahalite participated at the Fort Worth show in January. Jacob showed his Brahma heifers and Emily had the Hereford breed champion steer.

Amelia and Robert Stavinoha and Jacob Valenta were the first to travel to San Antonio to show their breeding heifers the week of February 11th. Jacob showed in both the Open and Junior Brahma shows. Amelia and Robert showed in both the Simbrah Superbowl and the SALE Junior shows. Robert was Reserve Champion in the 8-9 year showmanship and won his class in the Superbowl and Amelia was 8th in the 12 year showmanship.

Three 4-H Consumer Decision Making Teams participated at the San Antonio Livestock

Exposition Consumer Decision Making Contest on Saturday, February 16, 2013. The Consumer Decision Making contest is a competitive event that enables 4-H members to practice making decisions based on information about a situation and four available marketplace options. This contest is an opportunity to practice marketplace skills and compare decisions with a panel of judges who are knowledgeable about today's marketplace and the goods and services available.

The Senior Consumer Team of **Aaron Weishuhn, Shelby Hoelscher, Caitlin and Kim Kunz**, all of Frelsburg 4-H, placed 15th overall out of 51 teams. Weishuhn was 2nd high individual and is the recipient of a \$10,000 scholarship. The participants in the senior division are 14 to 18 years of age.

The Intermediate team of **Kenna and Jaycee Ferguson, Nicole Hoelscher and Amelia Stavinoha**, also member of Frelsburg 4-H, placed 4th of 30 teams and Kenna was 4th high individual. The participants in this division are 11 to 13 years of age.

Colorado County's Junior Team included **Karsen Lacina, Malarie Mican of Wild Clover 4-H and Robert Stavinoha of Frelsburg 4-H**. They placed 9th of 22 teams. Stavinoha was 4th high individual.

All of the Colorado County Consumer Decision Making participants will have the opportunity to participate in the District 11 contest on April 11, 2013 in Hallettsville.

Jessye Trefny participated in the SALE Commercial Steer contest on February 18th and 19th. 4-H members attending the SALE Livestock Judging contest on February 26th included **Jaycee and Kenna Ferguson, Kayden Mascheck, Danielle Hilley, Clara Henke, and Rowdy, Kim and Caitlin Kunz**.

Aaron Weishuhn participated in the HLSR Ranching and Wildlife contest this past week end and placed 1st. He will receive a premium of \$2,500. Premiums will be presented to the Top 20 participants at the 2013 contest ranging from the 1st place \$2,500 to \$250.

Congratulations to all of you for participating. Good Luck to **Amelia and Robert and to Emily and Lane Hasse and Jessye Trefny** who will be heading to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo next week.

WILD Forum Held at Texas State Capitol

Ross and Aaron Weishuhn, sons of James and Barbara Weishuhn of Columbus, participated in the Texas Brigades WILD Natural Resources Issues Forum the weekend of February 16 – 18, 2013. Ross is a junior at Texas A&M University and Aaron is a senior at Columbus High School. Both of them have been active in Colorado County 4-H.

The forum was held at The Texas State Capitol in the Ag Museum on Monday. Eight other participants from across the state also took part in this event. The forum was hosted by Representative Lois Kolkhorst and attended by other Representatives as well as members of the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Texas Wildlife Association, South Texas Property Rights Association, WILD Advisory Committee, and other organizations.

The participants in the WILD forum spent time on Saturday and Sunday attending a Leadership session and practicing and polishing their presentations as well as touring state parks in the area. Each of the participants had three minutes to present their issue, followed by questions by the panel. Ross' issue focused on Urban Sprawl/Katy Prairie and Aaron addressed the issue of Land Fragmentation.

Easter Community Service Project Set

The 4-H Council is sponsoring a Community Service project to make Easter bags for the WCJC Senior Citizens program. Council members and any other 4-H member wishing to help with the project will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, March 18th to put the bags together before the Council meeting. Council and Club Managers will meet after the bags are put together. **The following items were volunteered by the clubs: Horse Club – wash cloths, Shooting Sports – toothbrushes, Frelsburg – bar soap, Eagle Lake – toothpaste, Wild Clover - razors. Other items needed include**

lotion and shampoo or any other toiletry item.

We will be making 100 bags for this activity.

Summer Day Camps Being Planned

At the present time we are in the process of making plans for the summer day camps that are sponsored by the Colorado County 4-H Council. There will be a fee of \$5.00 for 4-H members and \$15.00 for non-4-H members. The deadline to register for all day camps is June 14, 2013. Dates have been set as follows:

July 10, 2013 – Kids in the Kitchen will be held from 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. at the Colorado County Ag Building

July 15, 2013 – Leather Working Day Camp will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Colorado County AG Building.

July 17, 2013 – Bead Day Camp will be held from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Colorado County AG Building.

July 30, 2013 – Beginning Sewing Day Camp will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Colorado County AG Building.

July 31, 2013 – Advanced Sewing Day Camp will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Colorado County AG Building.

Space in the Day Camps will be limited so be sure to register early for the camps you want to attend. Contact or come by the Extension Office for more information and to register.

District & State Contests Set

The District 11 Spring contests are coming soon. District Roundup and Junior and Intermediate Photography will be held at St. Joseph's High School in Victoria on Saturday, April 13, 2013. The deadline to register on 4-H Connect is March 12th for Photography, and March 25th for Roundup. District Consumer Decision Making contest will be held in Hallettsville on April 11, 2013 and April 1st is the deadline to register on 4-H Connect. Entries for the State Photography Contest must be submitted by April 15, 2013. District 11 Fashion Show/ Storyboard is set for April 27, 2013 at the Victoria Mall and April 8th is the deadline to register for both contests on 4-H Connect.

The District Horse Judging contest is set for April 6th with the deadline to register being March 24th. Multi-District judging contest is set for April 20th with the deadline to register being April 1st. Both contests will be held at College Station.

The District Rifle contest will be held on April 26-27, 2013 at the firing range in Lolita.

This year State Roundup will be held on the Texas A&M University on June 10-14, 2013.

Texas Brigades

The Texas Brigades Wildlife Education and Leadership Development applications are available at the Colorado County Extension Office or at www.texasbrigades.org. The Brigades program is for students ages 13 – 17 and includes the Buckskin Brigades, Bobwhite Brigades, Bass Brigades, Waterfowl Brigades and Ranch Brigades.

The Brigades give youth an opportunity to spend a week engaging in hands-on-learning about wildlife and fisheries, livestock, habitat, and ecosystem management with some of the state's leading wildlife and fisheries biologists and land managers. Only in the Texas Brigades will a young person learn what deer eat and why, how to age a quail, the adaptations of the largemouth bass, what affects migration patterns of waterfowl, and sustainable beef production from conception to the consumer. Through these and other activities, participants learn valuable leadership and critical thinking skills that promote team building and communication. Scholarships are available for this program and the deadline to apply is March 15, 2013.

Livestock Judging Clinic

The Animal Science Department at Texas A&M will host a Livestock Judging Clinic on Saturday, March 23, 2013. The clinic will be held at Pearce Pavilion located on George Bush Drive beginning at 8:00 a.m. Registration is being conducted online at <http://judgingcard.com> and the fee is \$10.00 per person through March 18th. Late registration can be made the day of the camp starting at 7:00 a.m. for \$15 per person. Contact Poe at brant_poe@tamu.edu for more information or go to <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/files/2012/06/judging-clinic-13.pdf>.

Cooking Convenience Foods

The last time you popped a frozen pot pie in the microwave, did you read the cooking/reheating instructions? It is very easy to just throw these convenience meals in the microwave without taking the time to read how to properly cook them. Convenience foods can be purchased frozen, refrigerated, or right off the shelf. Because each food has different cooking requirements, it is

imperative to read and follow the manufacturer's cooking instructions. The majority of these foods are not ready to eat straight out of the package, and typically, some further cooking is required.

Not following label directions can lead to undercooked food, thus leading to foodborne illness. Follow the basic steps provided while cooking convenience foods to help reduce your risk of getting a foodborne illness. You might find that proper cooking requires a conventional, convection, or toaster oven and not a microwave. Instructions are specific to that product and may not be applicable to all ovens. Remember to stir, cover, and rotate foods to allow for even cooking.

Another important consideration in convenience foods is the microwave wattage. Do you know the wattage of your microwave? Wattage is found on the inside of the door or on the back side of the appliance. If your microwave's wattage is lower than what is recommended on the instructions, it will more than likely take longer for your food to be cooked and reach its proper internal temperature. Typically, the higher wattage of a microwave you have, the less time it will take that food to reach its proper temperature.

Lastly, remember to use a food thermometer. After you have cooked the food, be sure to allow the food to "stand" for the allotted amount of time specified in the instructions. Stand time is important to allow the food to finish heating through or cooking. One cannot tell if a food is properly cooked based on color or texture alone. Using your food thermometer is the only sure way to tell if a food has reached its proper internal temperature. Most convenience foods need to reach an internal temperature of 165 °F. Remember to always read and follow the manufacturers' guidelines when cooking or reheating convenience foods. For more information on food safety visit this website: http://fightbac.org/storage/documents/Cook_It_Safe_CookItSafeBrochure.pdf.

Scholarship Applications Available

The Colorado County 4-H Council sponsors two \$250 scholarships for graduating seniors who have been 4-H members for at least three years, including this year. They also give a \$500 Health Rocks scholarship to a graduating senior who is going to study a health related field. These scholarship

applications are available at the Extension Office. The application deadline is April 19, 2013.

2012 Horse Validation Underway

The 2013 Horse Validation process has begun. The validation period is March 1 – April 15, 2013 for \$10.00 per horse and \$20.00 per horse for validation between April 16 – May 1, 2013. Horses that were validated in 2012 must be re-validated and any new horses must be added. Instructions on validating your horse(s) can be found at <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/academics/equine>.

You will need to bring a copy of your current Coggins test to the Extension Office by May 1, 2013.

Horse Clinic Scheduled for May 4th

A **Train Like a Champion** Horse Clinic will be held Saturday, May 4, 2013. The clinic will take place at Cook Ranch, 6901 Anders Bottom Road in La Grange. The program is free to any 4-H member and \$10.00 for non-4-H members. Registration will be from 8:00-8:30 a.m. and the clinic will begin at 8:30 a.m. Topics will include: Horse Program Update, Showmanship/Judging, Speed Events Clinic, Roping Clinic and Cattle Clinic – Team Penning. For more information contact the Extension Office.

Colorado County Fair News

The 2013 Colorado County Fair has been set for Wednesday, September 25 through Sunday, September 29, 2013. Tag-ins for individuals planning to exhibit an animal in the 2013 Fair will begin in May. **Exhibitors may order, tag-in, validate and show animals in one or two departments of the Junior Market Livestock and Poultry show, but may only sell one project.** Each exhibitor will be permitted to tag-in two animals in a department. A \$5.00 per animal tag-in fee will be collected at time of tag-in. At project tag-ins where there are more than one family member exhibiting, and multiple entries are made, all animals may be tagged in under the name of the family. In such cases, this will require the identification of each animal to a given exhibitor at the time of official weigh-in on September 25th.

Entries must be submitted in the Colorado County Extension Office between the dates of September 3 through September 13, 2013.

Market Steers will be tagged, tattooed and weighed on Saturday, May 4, 2013 at Colorado

Valley Veterinary Services (Dr. Ridlen's), 1391 Business Hwy 71, Columbus from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. A \$5.00 per animal tag-in fee will be collected at time of tag-in. Mike McCown and Glennon Trojacek are chairpersons for this event.

Commercial Heifers will be tagged and tattooed on Saturday, May 4, 2013 at Colorado Valley Veterinary Services (Dr. Ridlen's), 1391 Business Hwy 71, Columbus from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. A \$5.00 per animal tag-in fee will be collected at time of tag-in. Heifers must be 12 to 24 months of age at fair time. Teeth will be checked at tag-in. Heifers must be calf hood vaccinated for brucellosis prior to tag-in. All heifers 18 months or older as of sale date are required to be brucellosis tested by veterinarian or certified technician. Chairperson for this event is Mike McCown.

Pen of Three Heifers will be tagged, tattooed and weighed on Saturday, May 4, 2013 at Colorado Valley Veterinary Services (Dr. Ridlen's), 1391 Business Hwy 71, Columbus from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. A \$5.00 per animal tag-in fee will be collected at time of tag-in. Exhibitor may tag-in four heifers, however, only three will be allowed to show. Heifers must be purchased in Colorado County or an adjoining county. Exhibitors purchasing heifers from an individual will be required to have a breeder certification form filled out prior to tag-in and given to the chairperson on Saturday, May 4, 2013. Exhibitors may purchase heifers from an auction; however, exhibitors must show a sales receipt at time of tag-in. It is encouraged that heifers be bred at the time of show, but cannot calve prior to showing on Friday, September 27, 2013. E.M. Holt, Kenneth Wegenhoft and Russell Trefny are the chairpersons for this department.

CCF Scramble Heifers will be tagged, tattooed and toothed on Saturday, May 4, 2013 at Colorado Valley Veterinary Services (Dr. Ridlen's), 1391 Business Hwy 71, Columbus from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. A \$5.00 per animal tag-in fee will be collected at time of tag-in. The age of the heifer must not exceed 24 months at show time. Heifers with one or more permanent central incisors in view will be sifted. Heifers should have both temporary central incisors in place. Heifers must be calf hood vaccinated for brucellosis prior to tag-in. Make sure tag is in calves' ear. Kim Dyer is the chairperson for this department.

Other deadlines are as follows:

Broiler Chick order deadline – Friday, June 7, 2013. A box of 25 chicks will cost \$42.00. Orders

are to be turned in at the Colorado County Extension Office and must be paid for at the time of order.

Market Hog tag-in – Saturday, June 22, 2013 at the CCF Fairgrounds.

Market Goat & Lamb tag-in – Saturday, June 22, 2013 at CCF Fairgrounds

Rabbit Validation – Saturday, August 17, 2013 at CCF Fairgrounds.

Time to Order Lamb & Goat Tags

The time is fast approaching for any 4-H member planning to show lambs and/or goats at the 2013 State Fair of Texas to place their tag orders. Tag orders for the State Fair of Texas lamb and goat tags are due to the Colorado County Extension Office no later than April 12, 2013. Cost for tags will be \$10.00 per tag and must be paid for at the time of order.

4-H Livestock Ambassador Short Course

The Texas 4-H Livestock Ambassador Program will equip youth with the knowledge and skills to become ambassadors for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, the Texas 4-H program and animal science as it relates to livestock. There will be two sessions of the short course: July 15-18, 2013 at Texas A&M University and July 22-24, 2013 at Texas Tech University. The cost of the short course is \$200 at A&M and \$150 at Texas Tech and includes meals and lodging. Applications are available at the Extension Office and June 22, 2012 is the deadline to apply. Youth must be ages 14-18 and have a profound interest in animal science and animal production. They have to show advanced leadership qualities, have a willingness to help others and be in the top 25% of their class. 25 participants per university will be selected to attend. For more information contact the Extension Office.

2013 Texas 4-H Golf Challenge Camp

Texas 4-H is excited to announce that plans are underway for the 2013 Texas 4-H Golf Challenge Camp. This year's camp will be hosted in College Station April 26-28th. Last year's camp was a huge success and spots filled quickly. This year the camp will be limited to the first 30 youth (Intermediate and Seniors) to sign up on 4-H Connect. Registration opens March 1st and closes April 17th. The registration fee for this year's event will be \$225 and will cover the following: meals, hotel

lodging, professional golf instruction, and all other instructional fees. This camp will serve as an excellent way for youth to prepare for each of the regional golf challenges and state golf challenge that will be held in July. In addition, it will also provide those just getting involved in the Golf Challenge Program the opportunity to learn the nuts and bolts of what it offers to you. Please help in promoting this in your county. It is a camp that youth will not want to miss out on.



If you no longer wish to receive this letter please contact the Extension Office.

4-H
Make It Yours!

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The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating. Educational programs conducted by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, handicap, or national origin.

Individuals with disabilities, who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in any Extension activities, are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office for assistance ten days prior to the activity.