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Improving Lives. Improving Texas.

GUADALUPE COUNTY EXTENSION NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2012

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YOUTH SHOW - JANUARY 18-21

Come support our local 4-H, FFA and FCCLA members at the County Youth Show. These young people have been working hard for months in preparation for the Youth Show, so please encourage and recognize them. Here's the schedule:

Wed., Jan. 18

6:00 pm (or when all entries are checked in)
- Turkeys judged
7:30 pm (or when all entries are checked in)
- Broilers judged

Thur., Jan. 19

9:00 am - Steers Judged, followed by
Breeding Beef and Dairy Cattle
12:00 pm - Goats judged
6:00 pm - Breeding Swine judged

Fri., Jan. 20

8:00 am - Market Swine judged
10:00 am Homemaking (Baked Goods,
Handicrafts, Needlework, and Agricultural
Mechanics) judged (closed to public)
11:00 am - Rabbits judged
3:30 pm (about) - Homemaking open for
display
12:00 pm - Sheep judged
7 pm - Homemaking Auction sale

Sat., Jan. 21

12:00 noon - Auction begins

Sincerely,

Travis Franke
County Extension Agent - Ag

Matt Miranda
County Extension Agent - 4-H

Jeff Hanselka
County Extension Agent - Ag

Amy Harris
County Extension Agent - FCS

TF:MM:JH:AH:kl

"Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office at (830) 303-3889 at least 5 days prior to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made."

AG/NR NEWS

8TH ANNUAL TEXAS A&M “TURF SHORT COURSE”

Date: January 23-27

Place: Texas A&M University
College Station

Cost: \$695

Deadline: January 9

Enrollment is limited to 60 participants. More information is available at the Extension office if you are interested in attending.

TEXAS RANGE WEBINAR SERIES

Date: Jan. 5 - Brush Mgmt: What to Do
& Not Do in a Drought

Time: 12-1 p.m.

The Texas Range Webinar Series will provide science-based rangeland management options through live webinars. Experts will be on hand to answer questions. Participants can earn CEU's toward TDA Pesticide Licenses. For more information or to sign up for email notification of future webinars, go to <http://naturalresourcewebinars.org>

NEW SALES TAX EXEMPTION REGISTRATION FOR AGRICULTURE AND TIMBER OPERATORS

(AUSTIN)—Beginning Jan.1, 2012, farm, ranch and timber operators who produce agricultural and timber products for sale will need a special registration number to claim a sales tax exemption on taxable products used in those businesses. Texas Comptroller Susan Combs announced they can get a registration number through either a mail-in application or an online application that begins Oct. 3.

Registration is required by House Bill 268 passed in the recent legislative session and supported by retailers and agriculture groups. “Beginning Jan. 1, anyone who wants to claim the agriculture or timber sales tax exemptions for qualifying products will need a registration number to show retailers, instead of simply signing an exemption certificate at the time of purchase,”

Combs said. “The new registration process takes the burden off retailers to verify whether a purchaser is eligible for exemption. And it narrows the pool of purchasers claiming the sales tax exemption to those actually involved in production of agriculture and timber products for sale.”

The new legislation requires a registration number to claim tax exemptions when buying items such as machinery and equipment; fertilizers; insecticides; irrigation equipment; and off-road motor vehicles used for farming and timber production. Those entitled to make tax-free purchases of taxable qualifying products include groups such as:

- *farmers and ranchers who raise agricultural products to sell to others;
- *fish farmers and bee keepers who sell the products they raise;
- *custom harvesters;
- *crop dusters;
- *commercial nurseries engaged in fostering growth of plants for sale; and
- *timber producers, including contract lumberjacks.

Products such as feed for livestock and wildlife, seeds and annual plants are always tax-exempt and would not require a registration number.

The primary owner or operator of a farm, ranch or timber operation may obtain one registration number that can be used by anyone authorized by the registrant – including family members or employees – to make tax exempt purchases of qualifying products for the business.

The application for a registration number should take less than 10 minutes to complete. Online registration begins Oct. 3 at GetReadyTexas.org. Online applicants will receive a registration number immediately. If you prefer, you may download a paper application form from the website or call 1-800-252-5555 to receive a form by mail, or you can pick up a copy at the Extension office.

4-H NEWS

MARION 4-H

Date: Wednesday, Jan. 11
Time: 7 p.m.
Place: Krueger Primary Cafeteria
Program: Stock Show & project fashion show, CloverKids show their animal projects. Community Service: bring old t-shirts, new or gently used blankets, new or gently used stuffed animals. Refreshments: Collin Schlather.

COUNTY COUNCIL/ALPA MEETINGS

Date: January 25
Time: 7 p.m.
Place: County Extension Office
Look for more details in the January Newsletter
Be sure each club sends their three delegates and three adult leaders or make sure there is an alternate in their place.

4-H & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD

Date: January 25
Time: 8 p.m.
Place: County Extension Office
The Guadalupe Co. Youth Board and 4-H Advisory Committee have combined to form the 4-H and Youth Development Advisory Board. This board will work with the county agents and county council to improve the 4-H program in the county. The board will meet 5 times per year, directly after the county council meetings. Each club should elect two youth members and one adult member to serve on the board!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO ASSIST PHOTOGRAPHER AT YOUTH SHOW!

We need 4-H volunteers to sign up to help our photographer at the youth show this year! It will mainly be during the judging periods, but he could use your help at any time! It's a great photography project experience and you get to work with a professional photographer. To sign up for a time, contact Leah Brosig at 830-305-1129 or at navarro4pix@aol.com.

YOUTH SHOW CONTAINER PICK-UP & PHOTOGRAPHY DEADLINE

Date: January 11
Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Place: County Extension Office
Also, this is the deadline to drop off photos for the youth show contest!

COUNTY 4-H PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Deadline: Friday, Feb. 3, 5 p.m.
Please follow all 4-H photo contest guidelines for 2011-2012. Look for more details in the January Newsletter, Facebook and more! Call the county office for any questions!

SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY

If you intend on participating in 4-H and related contests such as the 4-H Food Show, Youth Show, major shows, etc., you'll need to be academically eligible. Once entries are turned in, we'll send a letter to the schools and ask them to declare the eligibility of those students. The letter lists the dates of the entire event (example: SALE is Feb. 4-21), so you are responsible for letting your school know exactly which days you'll be out for the event. Otherwise, the school will think you'll be out that whole time and that will count against you. You are expected to be in school as much as possible. Also note that open events such as county fairs are not eligible for extracurricular days. A general rule is that if the entries for a show come through our office and we have to sign the entry cards, then you must be academically eligible for that show, and any days away from school would be considered extracurricular.

SHOW DATES

Just wanted to let everyone mark their calendars for 2012 county and major shows. Guadalupe County Youth Show - Jan. 18-21, Ft. Worth Stock Show - Jan. 14-2/4, San Antonio Livestock Show - Feb. 10-26, San Angelo Stock Show - Feb. 18-3/4, Houston Livestock Show - Feb. 28-March 18, and Star of Texas (Austin) - March 10-25.

2012 YOUTH SHOW RULE BOOKS...

....are now available on our website. Kim has broken the rule book into species, so hopefully this will make it easier for 4-H families. The entire book can also be found at gcys.com. A limited number of printed copies will be available.

YOUTH SHOW - JAN. 18-21

To get ready for the Youth Show, take time to review your Youth Show rules and schedule (also available on-line at www.gcys.org as well as our website) be sure you have completed your 4-H enrollment form, had your livestock projects validated, turned in your entry materials, and maintained good grades. **YOU** are responsible for your own eligibility, so be sure you're good to go.

As far as activities during the Youth Show, our 4-H clubs are in charge of setting up, cleaning, and tearing down the seating for the auction on Sat., Jan. 21. Please continue your clean up efforts throughout the auction, keeping the auction area looking nice. 4-H'ers are also asked to provide finger foods and snack items for the Buyer's Hospitality Area. You can even make some of these items during the holiday break and put them in the freezer until the Youth Show.

SALE YOUTH DAY

Date: Saturday, Feb. 11, 2012

Deadline: January 20, 2012

Ok everyone, mark your calendars for Youth Day at SALE! This year, Youth Day will take place in the School Tours tent, NOT the Swine Barn. If your club would like to have a booth, please contact the county office. If not, come on out and visit!

SALE PHOTO CONTEST

SALE is having its annual photo contest again this year. On January 15, 2012, All entries/submissions must be received. The awards ceremony will be February 11, 2012 at 3:00 PM at Youth Day. If you have any questions, please contact the School Tours Committee at the following email address: schooltours@sarodeo.com

DON'T FORGET ABOUT YOUR CLUB REPORTS!!!

Don't forget to turn in your club report forms to the office every month!!! They are due on the 15th of every month!

SAN ANTONIO STOCK SHOW AND RODEO'S BAKING CONTEST

Date: February 11, 2012

If you are in the 1st through 12th grade and are interested in entering the baking contest please contact the extension office for entry form and rules. There are 3 age groups and 12 food categories. Money, ribbons and trophies for the winners and new this year is a door prize drawing for all participants who enter! **ALL ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MIDNIGHT, JANUARY 20, 2012**

GUADALUPE COUNTY 4-H LIVESTOCK EXHIBITORS

With over 1,000 4-H livestock projects raised in Guadalupe County each year, there is not any way Ag agents Jeff Hanselka and Travis Franke can visit each project to evaluate them. That is why we have volunteer adult leaders to assist us with all of the projects. Jeff and Travis will be glad to assist you with locating animals, advice, and a project visit, but you must call us, come by the Extension office, or email us to set up an appointment.

For all new livestock exhibitors, we would like to let you know what the county office has to offer for you to check out. The following is a list of livestock equipment that can be checked out from the Extension office:

1. (6) livestock clippers - you must provide your own blades
2. (2) lamb/goat trim tables
3. (1) livestock blower
4. poultry de-beaker

Please don't hesitate to call Jeff or Travis or email them at j-hanselka@tamu.edu or t-franke@tamu.edu for assistance with your livestock project.

LA QUINTA DISCOUNT WITH 4-H

As you travel, be sure to take advantage of the "Texas 4-H rate" at La Quinta hotels. When booking your stay, just type in tx4h in the promotion/corporate code box. While you get a discount, the Texas 4-H Foundation also receives support.

NEW RECORDKEEPING SYSTEM RELEASED

Recordbooks have changed for the 2011-2012 4-H year! The website to find the new forms is <http://4hreports.com>. They are different than they use to be; there are different forms for each age category, no more objectives, no more resumes and several other changes...there will be several county wide trainings coming up AND you can get your friendly neighborhood 4-H agent to come to your club to do a program on the new system! Stay tuned for more details!

COUNTY 4-H YEARBOOKS...

...are a great resource for your family. These are being distributed during your 4-H club/group meetings, and it can also be found the 4-H blog. The yearbook provides information on upcoming activities, available awards, Council and Adult Leader Association information and details on each club and group's annual plans and activities. We will distribute the yearbooks to our 4-H Club Managers who will provide each family 1 copy.

NEW COUNTY WEBPAGE

The County Extension Website has changed! It has been upgraded to be more up-to-date and easier to navigate! The new website is <http://Guadalupe.agrilife.org>. The old address will still link to the new page, but there is no telling how long that will last. We also have our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/guadalupecounty4h>. Check it out and spread the word!!! Be sure to click "like" on the page to follow us!

BULLETIN BOARD AND FOLDING NEWSLETTERS

We have a new 4-H year upon us, so we need each club to sign up for a different month to decorate the bulletin board just like last year! We are also asking each club to sign up each month to come in and help fold the newsletter.

YOUR NEWSLETTER...

...is the main source of communication from us to you—our 4-H members, leaders and parents—as well as many of our other Extension clientele and program participants. We try very hard to provide you information to help you know about upcoming activities and opportunities. We take the effort to provide you this publication, please take the effort to read it so you'll know what's happening in our 4-H program. You can always access the newsletter at our website, and those without e-mail will receive a hard copy in the mail. Everyone is also welcome to stop by our office for a copy of the newsletter and other information. Also, please let us know if you are interested in volunteering to help prepare the newsletters for mailing (folding, stuffing envelopes, etc.).

UNITED WAY SUPPORT

You may not realize it, but the Guadalupe County United Way has generously supported 4-H for several years. Their funding supports numerous county, district, state, and national events that our 4-H'ers are involved in. We are certainly grateful for the support, and we encourage everyone to make a personal donation to United Way and work with your employers to match your contribution. Besides 4-H, United Way provides funding for many agencies and organizations throughout the area.

GET YOUR 4-H ITEMS!!

We still have several items available for purchase: hoodies, t-shirts, signs, bears, luggage/backpack tags, scrapbook sets, cookie cutters, keychains and car magnets. Stop by the office to get your goodies today.

4-H Horse Club

Our next meeting will be January 11 at 6:30 pm.

Rockin' U 4-H Club

The next meeting will be held January 9, 2012 at 7pm at the county extension office.

Kingsbury 4-H Club

Our next meeting will be on January 12 at 7pm at Kingsbury Baptist Church.

Clemens 4-H Club

Our next meeting will be Jan 4 at 7pm at Bexar Hall.

Navarro 4-H Club

The next meeting of the Navarro 4-H Club will be January 4 at the Texas Ag Education and Heritage Center!

County Scholarship Information

The Deadline for all Texas 4-H Foundation Opportunity Scholarships is February 3rd at 5pm...there can be no exceptions! The training for the scholarships along with ALL dates and information are online at Guadalupe.agrilife.org/scholarships. This is where you can find all the info you need to fill out your applications, as well as the applications themselves! If you would like your scholarship forms to be looked over prior to the February 3rd deadline, Call Matt at the Extension Office and schedule a time to meet or drop off your application.

Scholarship Deadlines in January and Early February

All Tx Cattlewomen Scholarships- Jan 16
State Farm Scholarship- Jan 25
County EEA Scholarship- Feb 3
SALE Rural Youth Scholarship- Feb 3
ALL 4-H Foundation Scholarships- Feb 3

Get your 4-H Clothing!

Well, it's starting to get cooler outside and what better way to keep yourself warm than by getting a 4-H pullover hoodie! They are \$20 for youth sizes and \$25 for adults. They look just like our county shirts and are great for stock show season and representing our county. We also still have a few shirts, so get them while you still can!

New for the 2011-2012 4-H Year: Participation Fees

The cost will be \$25 per child when you register on 4-H Connect. Adults will not have to pay the fee, nor will Clover Kids. I understand this may be difficult for some people, but we will make it! Guadalupe County 4-H provides excellent programs to the youth of the county and \$25 is still a very good price for the quality of the programs we do! If you have any questions, please call Matt at the extension office!

Christmas Tree Contest Results

Congratulations to all clubs that participated in this year's Christmas tree decorating contest at Wells Fargo Bank!
1st place- 4-H Shooting Sports Club
2nd place- Navarro 4-H
3rd Place- Marion 4-H
4th- Kingsbury 4-H Clover Kids
5th- New Berlin 4-H
Each club received a Blue Quality Award and the top 5 will receive place ribbons. The top three award winners will also receive a monetary prize from Wells Fargo. Contact the extension office to collect your prize!

County-Wide Projects Available!

New Gardening and Horticulture County-Wide Project coming up!

Meeting is January 31 at 6pm

The county is starting a new county wide gardening project in January. This project will be in depth training on how to grow your plants and actually see some results! If you decide to grow vegetable plants, we will be winding up the spring project with the first County-wide vegetable show in June! If you do not have a good place to grow your plants, we are working with the Master Gardeners to have FREE places at the gardens at the Red Barn on Cordova and the Guadalupe Co. Community Garden in Schertz for you to grow your plants! This will be a full project with community service, leadership lots of project experiences! Keep an eye out for more details and call the county office if you are interested!

Dog Project

We would like to welcome Stephanie Johnson and Jeff Oehlsen to Guadalupe Co. as our new Dog project leaders! They will be planning events for dog care and training throughout the year. If you would like more information, please contact the county office.

Vet Science Project

The Guadalupe County Vet Science Project will be meeting December 16 @ 7pm at the County Extension Office.

County Horse Judging Project

If anyone is interested in Horse Judging for Guadalupe County 4-H, the first meeting will be Monday, December 16 @ 6pm at the Extension Office.

County Public Speaking Project

January 17 @ 6pm

The first Public Speaking training for the

spring will be held on January 17 at 6pm. We will be talking about the parts of a speech, ways to overcome the fear of public speaking and how to catch the audience's attention.

Puls Ag Farm

We have an agreement with the Puls Ag Farm out off 123 to house animal projects for kids who don't have the facility to do so. That way ALL kids can raise an animal, even if they don't have the space. It is free!

County Recordbook Training

We will be holding our FIRST County Recordbook training on January 31st at 7pm at the county extension office...this will be the first training on the NEW recordbook format!

January 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 2 pm Shooting Sports	2 7 pm Seguin 4-H	3	4 D-10 4-H Food Challenge 6:30 pm St James 4-H 7 pm Navarro 4-H 7:30 pm Clemens 4-H	5	6	7
8	9 7 pm Rockin' U 4-H	10 3 pm San Antonio Broilers arrive 6:30 pm McQueeney 4-H	11 1:30 pm Elm Creek EE 6:30-8:30 pm Container Pickup & Photo Drop Off 7 pm 4-H Horse Club 7 pm Marion 4-H	12 7 pm Kingsbury 4-H 7 pm Marion EE	13	14
15	16 County Holiday Office Closed	17 6 pm Public Speaking Training	18 2 pm Clear Springs EE ----- Guadalupe	19 ----- County	20 ----- Youth	21 ----- Show
22	23	24	25 11 am Schertz Diabetes Support Group 6-7 pm Major Stock Show meeting 7 pm 4-H Council & ALPA meeting	26	27 3 pm Houston Broilers arrive	28
29	30 11:30 am Seguin Diabetes Support Group	31 6 pm Co Record Book Training 7 pm Gardening & Horticulture mtg				

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!