

Winkler/Loving County AgriLife Extension
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**WINKLER/LOVING COUNTY
Ag/NR & 4H
NEWSLETTER
December 2012**

4-H

4-H Connect Registration

4-H Registration for the 2012/13 year will again be done electronically for youth members and adult volunteers on 4-H Connect, URL: 4honline.com. Registration is now **\$25** for each youth that becomes a member of 4-H. 4-H Connect has also removed the option to pay direct from a bank account, therefore a credit/debit card must be used to register with

Junior Master Gardener Meeting 12/27/12

There will be a meeting on Thursday, December 27, 2012 at 10 a.m. for all youth interested in participating in the Junior Master Gardener Program. The meeting will be held at the Winkler-Loving Co. AgriLife Extension Office (WLCEO). The program is open to youth in 4th and 5th grades, and a maximum of 20 youth will be allowed to participate. Junior Master Gardeners will be instructed by Betty Edwards, Betty Hayes, and Veta Reese. Programs will be conducted once a month providing education and activities for youth covering multiple subjects with certification available for youth who complete the program. There will be **NO COST** to become a Junior Master Gardener, and members do not have to be in 4-H to participate.

2013 District VI 4-H Food Show

The District VI 4-H Food Show was held Saturday, November 17, 2012 at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Odessa, TX. Winkler-Loving 4-H had 4 Senior participants in the Food Show. Receiving 2nd places in their categories were Madison Murray and Syndey Stodghill, Madeline Dodson had a 3rd place finish, and Karla Broome was awarded a participation recognition. 4-H Members were coached and instructed by Mrs. Crystal Murray, and congratulations to all of you on a job well done.

Hog Project Clinic

Saturday, December 8, 2012

Kermit 4-H Pens @ 2 p.m.

DO NOT BRING YOUR HOGS! We will not mix hogs until the show.

This will be the first of 2 project clinics held this year to help provide knowledge of feeding and managing show hogs, as well as showmanship techniques. The second clinic will be in January at the Wink 4-H Pens and will build off information provided in the first project clinic, but with more showmanship work to help polish the techniques. We do not want youth exposing their hogs to other animals or facilities for fear of illness, so we will only work the animals already at each facility.

Lamb/Goat Project Clinic

Sunday, December 9, 2012

Kermit 4-H Pens @ 2 p.m.

There will be a quick refresher over the information covered at the first meeting, then hands on work with each exhibitor and their animal will commence so bring at least one animal if possible. This will give you direct hands on instruction with your own project, rather than working with another person's project that may not have the same tendencies and temperament of yours. The final clinic will be in January, and will be entirely over showmanship unless the need arises to touch on other topics.

4-H Christmas Float

The Christmas Float turned out to be great success for Winkler-Loving 4-H members. The members and parents who helped construct and purchase items needed for the float deserve all the credit. This was the first float constructed by Winkler-Loving 4-H in the 2 years that I have had the pleasure to work and live here. It was enjoyable to see the 4-H youth take a project and make it such a success, and if you weren't able to see it maybe we will have some pictures posted on the Facebook page in the near future. GOOD JOB!

Holidays and Livestock Projects

And as we reach the Holiday Season in all its greatness, this is also the time that livestock projects are made or lost. It becomes very easy during this time of the year to get busy and forget, or delay the responsibility of managing livestock projects. A lot of us will be leaving town for Christmas, and it is up to you to make sure that the person feeding and watching your animals has all the knowledge they need to accomplish this task. With less than 60 days until the Winkler-Loving County Stock Show and 31 days until the Sandhills Stock Show, there isn't room for error when it comes to feeding and managing your livestock project(s). A day without food and water can very quickly set any project back. By skipping one day, we offset the normal body cycles and stress the animal. Stress in small doses isn't necessarily a bad thing, but you don't want to stress an animal without providing their nutritional needs. Just as important, can be not knowing what your animals weigh or how much they are gaining per day. This can leave you sitting on the outside looking in. If you have a hog too light or one that needs to be held, it can be extremely problematic to miss a feeding or a sign of illness, and on the other side have someone feeding for you provide too much feed to a hog you are trying to hold. The same can be said for feeding and exercising lambs or goats, and changing the feeding of a steer to reduce the work load on the person you have feeding for you. This late in the game, it is extremely important to keep these animals on track and growing properly according to the final goal you have set for them. So as you make your holiday plans, don't forget to put thought into you livestock projects and how they will be taken care of in your absence.

Ag/NR

Natural Resources and Cattle Management Program

The program will be conducted on December 10, 2012 at the Winkler-Loving AgriLife Extension Office from 9 – 11:30 a.m. The cost for the program is \$10, snacks and coffee will be provided.

Agenda

- 8:45 – 9:00 a.m. Registration
- 9:00 – 9:30 a.m. Solar Water Wells- Jack Canon & Ebony Benton, NRCS
- 9:30 – 9:45 a.m. Break
- 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. Cattle Reproductive Management- Dr. Bruce Carpenter
- 10:45 – 11:30 a.m. Replacement Options of Cattle Production- Dr. Bruce Carpenter

Jack Canon and Ebony Benton will be presenting over the programs available through the Natural Resources Conservation Service for solar water well systems. Mr. Canon and Mrs. Benton are located in the Pecos, TX Natural Resources Conservation Service Office.

Dr. Carpenter, Associate Professor & Extension Livestock Specialist, will be providing information over Cattle Reproduction and Replacement Options that are available for when producers are ready to restock after the drought we experienced last year.

USDA Cattle Tags

Texas Animal Health Commission Traceability Tags are now available at the Winkler-Loving AgriLife Extension Office. For additional ear tag information, including the nearest distributor of free USDA tags, contact the TAHC Traceability Team at 1-800-550-8242 ext. 733, or visit www.tahc.state.tx.us. Founded in 1893, the Texas Animal Health Commission works to protect the health of all Texas livestock, including: cattle, swine, poultry, sheep, goats, equine animals, and exotic livestock.

For more information on any events or other information, feel free to call the office 432.586.2593, e mail cesettle@ag.tamu.edu, or stop by the office- 307 S. Poplar St., Kermit, TX.

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