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July 2, 2013

TO: Cochran County Major Stock Show 4-H Families

FROM: Jeff Molloy, CEA-Ag Cochran

SUBJ: **2013-2014 Stock Show Philosophy**
Major Stock Show Motel Accommodations
Major Show Dates & Changes

It is that time again and I have enclosed information re: hotel/motel rooms for Fort Worth, San Antonio, Houston, San Angelo and Star of Texas stock shows. As a reminder, we cannot guarantee those listed have correct contact information even though they are kept up-to-date. Regardless, everyone is responsible for making their own reservations for these major stock shows.

If this has not already been completed, continued change for 2013-2012 is the Quality Counts verification required for all 4H & FFA youth exhibiting livestock (market and/or breeding) at major livestock shows in Texas (including the Ft. Worth Livestock Show, San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo, Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, Star of Texas Fair in Austin, San Angelo Livestock Show, Sandhills Stock Show in Odessa, State Fair of Texas in Dallas, and Heart O' Texas Fair in Waco). The verification process will require junior exhibitors to pass an online test that measures their knowledge on quality assurance and character education content items. Study guide and test link can be made at <http://qualitycounts.tamu.edu/>. All youth are required to do this and failure to do so will result in not being able to register for any major shows. Our office will have to pull a verification ID number assigned to each youth who have passed in order to register them for any major shows. Without the ID number, showing they have passed, we will not be able to register them for any major shows. If you have taken this as a junior, you will be required to take this again as a senior level. Otherwise, seniors who already have the verification will not have to retake it. Also remember you have to be re-enrolled on 4-H connect starting Sept. 1st. Fee will be only \$20 until after Oct. 31st, then will be \$25.

Remember, hotels are expensive and each town has high venue taxes for cost of show grounds, etc. Be careful! Therefore, please find enclosed a list of hotels/motels for your convenience. These motels have proven adequate in the past. This list is only a suggestion or a place for you to start in making each of your own family's reservations for major stock shows and not a requirement.

As most of you know, but for those members that are new, our office cannot afford to make reservations for everyone due to the cost of late arrivals or cancellations when motels began charging for no-shows or cancelling a room for late arrival. Therefore, please make your reservations as early as possible so that you will be able to select the motel of your choice.

Remember, it is better to make a reservation and cancel than to decide to go and not have a room! Most hotels require a 72-hour notice before arrival or they will charge you for a no-show (one night's fee). PLEASE DON'T DELAY – MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Because this will be the first or second opportunity for many of you to work with us as we prepare for stock shows, we think it is important for each of you to understand our philosophy and beliefs which we have learned to live by over a number of years in Extension.

We will list many of those for you as follows:

We will follow the rules of all major shows to the letter as they are in each show's catalogue.

We will travel together as a county group and will work together to make it a positive experience for all kids and parents.

1. We will all understand that attending shows costs each family more than \$450.00 plus per day, on the average, thus we do not send animals to a show and tell others "if he makes it through the sift, call us and we'll see you at the show." ***The show experience is what it's all about, so don't rob your children of the experience.*** There are times when exceptions have to be made, (other conflicting UIL events or sickness), and this will be left to be determined on a case by case basis.
2. We will support and encourage all FFA Chapters from Cochran County and cheer as they compete.
3. We will be mindful of all drug residue restrictions, know the withdrawal times for approved drugs and we won't use non-approved drugs in our animals unless the vet prescribes them. Just remember, successful programs will be tested so be prepared. Also remember that random drug testing can occur.
4. Please remember that the shows are a family experience and due to this, we sincerely hope that ***no alcohol is present and consumed by Cochran County 4-H Adults and Youth at the county pens at the respective shows.*** What adults do elsewhere is no business of ours, which includes hotel rooms, campers, restaurants, and food courts at the shows.
5. It is the responsibility of each family to make room reservations on their own, but it is nice to stay in the hotel as a group. Many 4-H mom's have coordinated this in the past for county groups.
6. Validation rules mean – each child must maintain and be responsible for the care and welfare of his or her animals!
7. We will always be open to suggestions to keep your traditions alive. If it is important to you, it's important to us. Most of those we are not aware of so communication will be the key to success, fellowship and camaraderie.
8. Last but not least, please, do not ask us to bend rules. Just because somebody says, "Everybody else is doing it, it's okay" does not make it right.

Lastly, we have fall 2013 shows, banquet & show/tag registration order deadlines as follows:
(Please call or come by office for registration and/or orders.)

Banquet RSVP by: August 8th (This will be held at the county park on August 15th at 6:30 p.m. Casual & bring lawn chairs. Meal will be hamburgers)

Sept 20-28th / South Plains Fair Registration Due: August 8th

Sept 6-14th / West Texas Fair & Rodeo (Abilene) Registration due: August 8th

Sept 6-14th / Permian Basin Fair & Rodeo (Odessa) Registration due: August 8th

Sept 27- Oct 20th / State Fair Registration due: August 8th

Goat and Lamb tag orders & payment due: August 21st \$10 each

Swine tag orders & payment due: September 18th \$10 each

Please note office policy :Signature forms and payments must be received prior to registration being completed for all

local & major shows.

Hotel Listing

Fort Worth

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Green Oaks Inn | Marriott Fairfield Inn | Holiday Inn | Inn of the Concho | Best Western |
| P. O. Box 121279 | 1505 S. University | 2021 N Bryant | 441 Rio Concho | 3017 W. Loop 306 |
| Fort Worth, Tx. 76116 | Fort Worth, Tx. 76107 | 432/658-2828 | 432/658-2811 | 432/223-1273 |
| 817/738-7311 | 817/335-2000 | | | |

Motel 6

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------|
| * La Quinta | Ramada | 311 N. Bryant |
| 4700 N. Freeway | 1401 S. Univ Dr. | 432-658-8061 |
| 817/222-2888 | 817-335-2000 | |

San Antonio

| | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Comfort Inn | La Quinta - Windsor Park | | |
| 4403 I-10 East | 6410 I-35 North | Holiday Inn | Radisson Astrodome |
| San Antonio, Tx. 78219 | San Antonio, Tx. | 811 Kirby | 8686 Kirby |
| 210/333-9430 | 512/653-6619 or 800/531-5900 | 713/790-1900 | 713/795-8420 |

Houston

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| *Comfort Inn Suites | Wellesley Inn | Studio Plus | Medical Ctr | Crowne Plaza |
| I-35 and Ritteman Road | 2635 NE Loop 410 | 1303 La Concha | 713-797-1110 | |
| Exit 164A | 210-653-9110 | 713-790-9753 | | |
| 210/646-6600 or 800/228-5150 | | | | 713/748-3221 |

Austin

| | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Marriott | Studio Plus | I-35 & 183 |
| 1800-648-4462 promo code S65 | 210-694-1229 | 512-452-3300 |

Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin.

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2013-2014 Major Show Dates & Changes

Cochran County Stock Show - January 15-18th, 2012 Deadline November 8th

Tentative Schedule:

Jan 15th 3:30- 5:00 goat & lamb weigh in. Jan 16th 2 p.m. swine weigh-in. Jan 16th 6 p.m. goat & lamb show. Jan 17th 9 a.m. swine show. Jan 17th 9 a.m. steer weigh in. Jan 17th 3 p.m. steer show. Jan 18th 12 p.m. CCLIA Luncheon. 1:30 p.m. SELL

Southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show - Ft. Worth Jan 17th - Feb 8th 2014

Major Notice: Entry Deadline November 15th - Office Deadline November 8th

Schedule not out, yet

San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo - San Antonio Feb 6th - Feb 23rd 2014

Entry fees at or below \$20 will be raised to \$25.00 **Deadline November 8th**

Schedule not out, yet

San Angelo Stock Show & Rodeo - San Angelo Feb 11th - March 2nd 2014 **Deadline November 8th**

Schedule not out, yet

Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo - March 4th - March 23rd **Deadline Nov 8th**

Schedule not out, yet

Star of Texas - Austin March 1st- 16th **Deadline Nov 8th**

Schedule not out, yet