



# SMITHSON VALLEY FFA



SEPTEMBER 2011

## September FFA Meeting Announcements

Membership sign up was at our first meeting, so if you missed it make sure you get a membership form from the Ag office and turn it in as soon as possible.

Fundraisers were given out at the meeting, so if you didn't get one those can also be picked up from the Ag office. We ask that every student participates in this because the money will go to our activity fund, which every child uses throughout the year.

Fundraiser orders are due at the next meeting on October 11<sup>th</sup>

Fair Day is this Friday, and we would love all members to come ride the float with us! We will meet at 7:30 that Friday morning on Santa Clara St. in New Braunfels. Bring a permission slip if you do plan on attending or turn it into your Ag teacher during the week. Also, community service hours are being given for balloons that are brought in the colors red black white and silver.

### Important Dates:

- October 11<sup>th</sup> – Next meeting – Candy Drive; bring bags of candy for service hours & a Pumpkin Decorating Contest will be held
- October 17<sup>th</sup> – Lamb & Goat Validation @ SVHS from 2:00 – 6:00
- October 19<sup>th</sup> – Lamb & Goat Validation @ Fair Grounds from 2:00 – 6:00

### IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

We had scheduled our "Quality Counts" test taking to be October 11<sup>th</sup> before our next meeting. We are re scheduling this to be Wed. October 12<sup>th</sup> after school in the Ag classrooms. We will be announcing this at the October meeting as well.

## Comal County Jr. Livestock Show Association Info

This years livestock show is being held February 29th to March 3rd, 2012. The judges have been announced: Poultry– Jason Lee, Goats– Jess Yearman, Hogs– Kim Brock, Lambs– Marvin Ensor, Rabbits– Tony Bell, Cattle– Dr. Ryan Rathman.

Each chapter needs to bring 5 items for the raffle . One item Smithson Valley will be donating is a shed built by the Ag Mechanic students. We need a Booster Club member to serve as a contact person for Glenn and Rhonda Muehlstein.

The Gala is being held on January 28, 2012. This year Smithson Valley is in charge of the silent action. We need a Booster Club member to serve as the contact person for the Silent Auction. We also need volunteers to help get donations for the auction. The money raised through the raffle and silent auction will go towards the animals at the county show.

2011 Scholarship recipients need to send in a paid receipt of class enrollment and a Thank You Letter to the Association in order to receive their scholarship.

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## ***PRESS RELEASE: ALL Livestock Exhibitors will be REQUIRED to complete Quality Counts for 2012 Stock Shows***

Starting in 2012, Quality Counts verification will be required for all 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.

The Quality Counts Program has now been in existence statewide for six years. Over this time, it has reached an average of 30,000 youth per year through the 4-H and FFA Programs. The program outcomes clearly demonstrate youth being more knowledgeable of best management practices associated with livestock projects. More importantly, the program's impact has demonstrated positive changes in personal character attributes as well as adoption of livestock best management practices.

Over these six years, Quality Counts has been supported and endorsed by every major livestock show in Texas. These livestock shows have been instrumental in helping market the program statewide and have also been a strong partner regarding the educational content developed for the Quality Counts Program. In addition, these livestock shows have fully endorsed this verification process.

Starting in May, youth are able to go online to take the test and become verified. A verification number will need to be provided at the time of making an official entry into a Texas major livestock show. Thus, youth will need to have completed and passed the test before the major livestock show's entry deadline. A passing score has been determined to be 80%.

Youth educators and the major livestock shows in Texas believe strongly in Quality Counts. Collectively, they are confident that this significant step of requiring youth to be "Quality Counts Verified," starting in 2012, will strengthen and enhance the youth livestock program in Texas.

To learn more about Quality Counts including the verification process, please visit:

<http://qualitycounts.tamu.edu/>

To take the test, click on the Verification button, then down on that page click on "Take the Test and Become Verified" - you must select the test for 4-H, FFA, or 4-H AND FFA, so make sure you take the correct test! After you take the test, be sure to print your certificate, which has a verification number. This number will be REQUIRED for major stock show entries!

### ***Volunteers Needed for Validation***

Volunteers are needed to help with lamb and goat validations at the school on October 17th and at the swine validation on November 14th. Both validations are from 2 pm to 6 pm. If you can help with either validation, please let one of the Ag teachers know.





## *The Scholarship Dance Committee is Looking for Parents of Juniors*

Each year the FFA Booster Club puts on a Scholarship Dance to help raise funds to provide scholarships to the following year's seniors. The Booster Club tries to award at least four \$1000 scholarships.

The number of scholarships award, however, can change depending on how successful the dance is. This means, if your child is a Junior this year, the money that is raised at this year's dance, will go towards scholarships for his or hers class. So if you want to help make this year's dance a success, the Scholarship Dance Committee needs your help.

If you are interested in joining the committee or seeing how you can help, please contact Donny Michalec at [dtmichalec@gvvc.com](mailto:dtmichalec@gvvc.com)

## *Sick Lambs and Goats*

Due to stress caused by the heat, we are having issues with Coccidia and respiratory problems in our lambs and goats. Please take a fecal sample to the vet at the first sign of anything different in their fecal matter (loose, runny, soft), eating habits or coughing and/or runny noses.

A fecal sample is very easily collected by inverting a ziplock bag and picking up the sample and then turning the bag back over. Please try to collect as fresh a sample as possible. Treat and/or prevent Coccidia with Corid in the water as we are not having much luck with Sulmet or Albon.

Water down pens daily to reduce dust which can cause respiratory problems. Take your animals to the vet immediately for respiratory issues, as this time of the year slight respiratory infections escalate quickly into pneumonia.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact Cody Cook at [cody.cook@comlisd.org](mailto:cody.cook@comlisd.org) and/or 830-885-1084

## *For Sale*

Kate Murphy is selling the hanging show box she won at the Comal County Junior Livestock Show. It is white powder coated and measures 16 1/4" x 10 1/4" x 51". Never been used, brand new, and hoping it will pay for a few college books. Priced at \$175. Please call (210) 215-3408 if interested.

Do you or do you know someone who has livestock equipment that you are no longer needing and would like to sell. Email [smithsonvalleyffa@yahoo.com](mailto:smithsonvalleyffa@yahoo.com) to have it posted in the newsletter and online.

## *Smithson Valley FFA Website*

Want to know more about what is happening with Smithson Valley FFA's program? Go to the FFA web-site at [www.smithsonvalley.ffa.org](http://www.smithsonvalley.ffa.org). Please make sure that you register on the website, as almost all announcements are sent to those members who are registered on the website.



## *Congratulations to Smithson Valley's FFA Shooting Team*



Congratulations to our shooting team for bring home honors at the Ag Clays State Contest on June 6, 2011 at the National Shooting Complex in San Antonio. The contest, which consisted of trap and sporting clay events, was sponsored by the Texas Park and Wildlife Department. Representing Smithson Valley FFA was Cullen Bray, Jarred DeSalme, Jeremy Marroquin, Caleb McCarthy, TJ Tuttle, and Kelsey Hasbrook.

In the team events, the mixed team consisting of Cullen, Kelsey, Jeremy and TJ, placed 3rd in the traps and 4th in sport-

ing clays. Each team member received a bronze medal and the team was awarded a banner for the high school for their 3rd place finish.

In the individual events, Kelsey placed 5th in ladies trap.



### *T-Shirts*

**ASPIRE** to  
before you *Inspire*  
**EXPIRE**

SMITHSON VALLEY FFA  
EXP 25 MAY 2012

front

back

The 2011-2012 t-shirts are now available. The shirts are black with the design on the left on it. Short sleeve shirts are \$10 and long sleeve shirts are \$15. You can pick your shirt up in the Ag office.

Last years shirts are available for \$6. Previous year shirts are also available \$3 to \$5. Carolyn Walker will have them at each meeting or you can contact her at [carolynfncf@gvvc.com](mailto:carolynfncf@gvvc.com). Pictures of these shirts are available on the website.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

<i>Comal County Fair Parade</i>	<i>Sept 23, 2011</i>
<i>FFA Meeting: SVHS Library at 7 pm</i>	<i>Oct 11, 2011</i>
<i>Quality Counts Test Workshop: SV Ag Building after school</i>	<i>Oct 12, 2011</i>
<i>Lamb &amp; Goat Validation: SV Ag Building from 2 pm to 6 pm</i>	<i>Oct 17, 2011</i>
<i>Lamb &amp; Goat Validation: Comal County Fairgrounds from 2 pm to 6 pm</i>	<i>Oct 19, 2011</i>
<i>Quality Counts Needs to be Completed to sign up for Major Shows</i>	<i>Nov 1, 2011</i>
<i>FFA Meeting to sign up for Major Livestock Shows: SVHS Cafeteria at 7 pm</i>	<i>Nov 2, 2011</i>
<i>Swine Validation: SV Ag Building from 2 pm to 6 pm</i>	<i>Nov 14, 2011</i>
<i>Swine Validation: Comal County Extension Office from 3 pm to 6 pm</i>	<i>Nov 21, 2011</i>
<i>FFA Meeting: SVHS Library at 7 pm</i>	<i>Dec 12, 2011</i>
<i>FFA Meeting: SVHS Library at 7 pm</i>	<i>Jan 10, 2012</i>
<i>FFA Chapter Show: Comal County Fairgrounds</i>	<i>Jan 20 to 21, 2012</i>
<i>Comal County Jr. Livestock Show Assoc Gala: New Braunfels</i>	<i>Jan 28, 2012</i>
<i>FFA Meeting: SVHS Library at 7 pm</i>	<i>April 10, 2012</i>
<i>Smithson Valley FFA Booster Club Scholarship Dance: Anhalt Hall 6 pm to 12 am</i>	<i>April 28, 2012</i>
<i>FFA Awards Banquet: SVHS Cafeteria</i>	<i>May : Date TBD</i>

## MAJOR LIVESTOCK SHOW DATES

<i>Comal County Fair: <a href="http://www.comalcountyfair.org">www.comalcountyfair.org</a></i>	<i>Sept 23 to 25, 2011</i>
<i>State Fair of Texas (Dallas): <a href="http://www.bigtex.com">www.bigtex.com</a></i>	<i>Sept 30 to Oct 23, 2011</i>
<i>Ft. Worth Livestock Show and Rodeo: <a href="http://www.fwssr.com">www.fwssr.com</a></i>	<i>Jan 13 to Feb 4, 2012</i>
<i>Hill Country District Jr. Livestock Show (Kerrville): <a href="http://www.hcdjls.org">www.hcdjls.org</a></i>	<i>Jan 19 to 21, 2012</i>
<i>Smithson Valley FFA Chapter Show</i>	<i>January 21, 2012</i>
<i>San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo: <a href="http://www.sarodeo.com">www.sarodeo.com</a></i>	<i>Feb 9 to 26, 2012</i>
<i>San Angelo Stock Show and Rodeo: <a href="http://www.sanangelorodeo.com">www.sanangelorodeo.com</a></i>	<i>Feb 16 to 26, 2012</i>
<i>Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo: <a href="http://www.hlsr.com">www.hlsr.com</a></i>	<i>Feb 28 to March 18, 2012</i>
<i>Comal County Jr. Livestock Show: <a href="http://www.ccjls.org">www.ccjls.org</a></i>	<i>Feb 29 to March 3, 2012</i>
<i>Star of Texas (Austin): <a href="http://www.rodeoaustin.com">www.rodeoaustin.com</a></i>	<i>March 9 to 24, 2012</i>

