

January Meeting

Attendance was discussed at the January meeting. Students are only allowed to miss 10 days for school activities per year. This includes participating in team events, livestock shows, sports and other school activities. This tends to be a problem for those students that attend multiple livestock shows and are on teams.

Keep track of the days that will be missed. If your animal is at the show, but you are not showing that day, try to have someone else feed in the morning. The only days that the Ag teachers are allowed to excuse absences are if the student is actually showing or participating in a team event that day.

If more than 10 days are missed, it will have to be made up at Saturday school.

Scholarship Dance



The scholarship dance/casino night will be held on April 28th at Anhalt Hall from 6 pm to Midnight. Dinner will be served starting at 6 pm until food is gone.

There will be 14 casino tables, which include craps, blackjack, roulette and Texas Hold-Em. The committee is looking for businesses to sponsor each of these tables.

The cost per table is \$500. For the \$500, the business receives 10 entries into the event, their name on the casino table that they sponsored, \$10,000 in playing chips, and their name in the Bulverde Spring Branch Chamber of Commerce Newsletter.

Dinner tables are also available for a donation of \$300. For the \$300, the business or individual will receive a dinner table for 10, 10 entries into the event, 10 meal tickets and \$10,000 in playing chips. For those purchasing individual tickets, playing chips will be available to purchase at \$10 for \$1,000 in playing chips.

The Bulverde Spring Branch Chamber of Commerce has been graciously donating their time to helping the committee plan this event by making suggestions on how to proceed and how to obtain table sponsors. They have even donated space in their newsletter to list the name of the table sponsors.

Donations for silent auction items, drinks and food are still needed. A donation letter will soon be available on the website for people to print out. Also, a Facebook event page has been set up to help get the word out on this event.

If you are interested in joining the committee or seeing how you can help, attend next month's meeting on February 8th at 7:00 pm at the Krause Construction Office. You can also contact Donny Michalec at dtmichalec@gvtc.com.

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CCJLSA Gala –Silent Auction

The CCJLSA Gala is almost upon us and help is desperately needed. The event is being held at the New Braunfels Civic Center on January 28th.

People are needed to help take the donations to the Civic Center and to help set up the tables up. Help is also needed to work the silent auction tables during the event. There are three shifts: 6 to 8 pm, 8 to 10 pm, and 10 pm to 10:30 or 11 pm. The auction ends at 10 pm, so the last shift is collecting the silent auction sheets and making sure that no one picks up their item(s) unless they have proof it has been paid for. Because this is the most hectic part of the silent auction, this is when the most people are needed.

The Gala is for the buyers at the CCJLSA Livestock Show. If a person or buyer spends at least \$250 at the livestock show, they are sent 2 tickets for the following years Gala. The only other way to be able to attend the entire event is if you are a volunteer. So if you were not a buyer at last years livestock show, but would like to attend, volunteer to help. Two hours of your time is well worth it. To attend just the dance portion of the event, it is \$10 per person at the door and you can not arrive before 6 pm.

If you would like to help, contact Christi Pellerin at Smithsonvalleyffa@yahoo.com as soon as possible, as she needs to let CCJLSA how many people are volunteering so she can get the volunteer tickets.

Fundraisers

With the economy the way it is, the Ag Booster Club is finding that their funds are getting tight. They are looking for suggestions on possible fundraisers.

The Booster Club is allowed to do 2 fundraisers a year, however, they have only been doing one (the Scholarship Dance). It was discussed that the money raised from the Chapter Show and the Scholarship Dance, cover those expenses only. The money raised from t-shirt sales, have not been covering those expenses. Yet, the Booster Club continues to try to help the Ag teachers with their needs (trailer tires, blade sharpening, travel expenses, material for shed for CCJLSA Livestock Show) as best as they can. If a second fundraiser is not done in the near future, the funds will soon run out.

If you have any suggestions, please bring it up at the next meeting in March or send an email to smithsonvalleyffa@yahoo.com.

CCJLSA Livestock Show Buyer Sheets

Buyer Sheets for the CCJLSA Livestock Show are now available. The sheets allow people to donate any amount of money to a specific species or to the entire show. If a person/business decides that they would like to spend at least \$250, they will be allowed to have 2 adults in the buyer section of the auction. Tickets for kids can be purchased for an additional price at the auction. These buyers will be served food and drinks throughout the day and they will also receive two tickets to next years Gala.

To pick up the Buyer Sheets, email smithsonvalleyffa@yahoo.com.





Medications for Show Animals

Animals are still getting sick at the barn. If you find that your animal is sick, be very careful about giving medication to your animal. Many medications will cause an animal to test positive for drugs if it is drug tested at a show. If you take your animal to the vet, make sure you let the vet know that you are taking your animal to a show and the date of the show. This will help the vet determine the best possible medication to use. If you think you know what is wrong with your animal and plan to treat it yourself, contact your Ag Advisor before you do so. Again, you don't want to give your animal something that will cause it to test positive. The Ag teachers phone numbers are on the Smithson Valley FFA website.

A small note for those that are new to showing animals, **DO NOT** use Neosporin on yourself or your animals. Neosporin will cause your animal to test positive. If you use it on yourself you can get it on your animal. So if you cut yourself, use soap, alcohol and a bandage.

Barn Gate

The gate on the fence surrounding the barn has been left open and unlocked a lot lately. The fence was installed to help protect the animals from dogs and from people going into the barn that do not belong there. Please make sure that if you are the last one at the barn, that you lock the gate.

Sometimes this is difficult to do because the latch does not always want to go all the way down. If you find yourself in this situation, unclog the wheel in the asphalt that the fence pole slides into. This should fix the problem. If this does not work, please contact one of the Ag teachers.

Show Season - Animal Weights

We have now entered Show Season. This is a very hectic time for everyone. One very important thing you need to keep track of if you are showing animals is the weight of each of your animals.

Each show will have a minimum and maximum weight. If you fall below or above these weights, you will not be allowed to show your animal. And if it is a terminal show, this means your animal goes straight to the market. After all of your hard work, this is the last thing you want to happen.

To prevent this from happening, look at the weight requirements for each show you are entered in. Weigh your animals each week. This will help you determine how much your animal is gaining each week. Next determine how many days there are until the show that you plan on taking that animal to. Then calculate how much your animal will gain between now and then based on their current weight gain. If you use the scales at the barn, make sure that you check the scale to make sure it is accurate. This can be done by weighing a new bag of 50 and making any necessary adjustments.

If it looks like your animal will fall outside of the weight requirements, talk to your Ag Advisor to see what you can do to help remedy this. If you wait until the last minute to get help, there is not too much you or your Ag Advisor can do.

So if you have not started weighing your animals each week, start now!



What to Take to A Show

If this is your first year, going to a show can be overwhelming. You will look around and see people with a lot of equipment and supplies. Here is a list of basic items you should bring. The list can be adjusted based on what you are showing. If you are only going to the Chapter Show and the CCJLSA Show, then you might want to consider going in on halves with someone on some of these items.

- ◆ A show box or container for your supplies
- ◆ Drench gun (lambs/goats/steers/heifers)
- ◆ Water pipe (swine) - pvc pipe with water nipple
- ◆ Electrolytes/Drench
- ◆ Water hose with sprayer
- ◆ Soap/Shampoo and Conditioner
- ◆ Towels
- ◆ Halters (lambs/steers/heifers)
- ◆ Chains (goats)
- ◆ Walking stick (swine)
- ◆ Blankets (lambs/goats)
- ◆ Muzzles (lambs/goats)
- ◆ Brushes
- ◆ Feed trough
- ◆ Feed in a plastic container with a lid
- ◆ Probias
- ◆ Dyne
- ◆ Mineral Oil
- ◆ Vitamin-B Complex
- ◆ Waterless Shampoo
- ◆ Shavings (check show guide to see if provided)
- ◆ Gallon sprayer with water/bleach mixture or 2 tsp captan per 1 gallon water mixture to treat for ringworm after show
- ◆ Pump up spray bottle for conditioner/water mixture
- ◆ Safety pins
- ◆ Ice chest with drinks and snacks & Chairs

Chapter Show

This year's chapter show is being held January 20 - 21st at the Comal County Fairgrounds. Weigh in and show times have changed since last month. Animals will arrive on Friday for weigh ins starting at 4 pm and ends at 7 pm.

This year two rings will be ran at the same time. The steers, heifers and pigs will show in the dirt arena, while the lambs and goats are in an arena being set up in the "petting area" of the barn. The show will start at 8 am with goats and pigs. There is no seating in the lamb and goat arena so make sure that you bring chairs to sit in.

The concession stand will be open for chili on Friday night and breakfast foods, drinks and snacks on Saturday. Carl's Jr will be there to serve lunch from 11 am to 2 pm. Meals will consist of a burger or nuggets, fries and a drink for approximately \$6. Twenty-five percent of the profits will be donated to the Booster Club.

Exhibitors need to set up in the pen area assigned to that species. They will be given one bag of shavings. Additional bags can be purchased for \$7 a bag. Exhibitors will not be allowed to leave until they check out with their superintendent. The exhibitor's pen and area needs to be cleaned before the superintendent will approve the exhibitor to leave.

If you are attending the Kerrville Show and plan on attending the Chapter Show, make sure that Mr. Cook knows and that he has your weights, so he can turn them in.





Mark Your Calendar

<i>Comal County Jr. Livestock Show Assoc Gala: New Braunfels</i>	<i>Jan 28, 2012</i>
<i>CCJLSA Meeting: Canyon High School Ag Building at 7 pm</i>	<i>Feb 6, 2012</i>
<i>FFA Meeting –Board of Directors only: TBD</i>	<i>Feb 2012</i>
<i>Scholarship Dance Committee Meeting: Krause Construction at 7 pm</i>	<i>Feb 8, 2012</i>
<i>FFA Meeting: TBD</i>	<i>March 2012</i>
<i>CCJLSA Meeting: TBD at 7 pm</i>	<i>March 2012</i>
<i>CCJLSA Meeting: SVHS Ag Building at 7 pm</i>	<i>April 2, 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>CCJLSA Meeting: Comal County Fairgrounds at 7 pm</i>	<i>May 7, 2012</i>
<i>FFA Awards Banquet: SVHS Cafeteria</i>	<i>May 2012</i>



Major Livestock Show dates

<i>Ft. Worth Livestock Show and Rodeo: www.fwssr.com</i>	<i>Jan 13 to Feb 4, 2012</i>
<i>Hill Country District Jr. Livestock Show (Kerrville): www.bcdjls.org</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: www.sarodeo.com</i>	<i>Feb 9 to 26, 2012</i>
<i>San Angelo Stock Show and Rodeo: www.sanangelorodeo.com</i>	<i>Feb 16 to 26, 2012</i>
<i>Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo: www.blsr.com</i>	<i>Feb 28 to March 18, 2012</i>
<i>Comal County Jr. Livestock Show: www.ccjlsa.org</i>	<i>Feb 29 to March 3, 2012</i>
<i>Star of Texas (Austin): www.rodeoaustin.com</i>	<i>March 9 to 24, 2012</i>

Smithson Valley FFA Website

Want to know more about what is happening with Smithson Valley FFA's program? Go to the FFA website at 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.

