Good Morning Gator Nation!!!

Welcome Back! Only a few weeks to go until finals. The end of the year brings with it a great deal of activity and things to be aware of. Here are our updates for the week.

* **Weather**
* **Hoof Trimming**
* **GCF&R WinterFest**
* **GFR&R Lamb & Goat Validation**
* **GCF&R Pre-Registrations**
* **GCF&R Entries**
* **Cattle Barn Update**
* **Cattle Pasture**
* **Dickinson FFA Toy Drive**
* **GCFR Market Broiler Orders**
* **HLSR Rabbit and Cavy Registration**
* **Dickison FFA Showdown Committee**
* **Christmas FFA Meeting**
* **Major Cattle Ear Tags**

**Activity Calendar**

A calendar with a number of days and months

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**FFA Meeting / Specie Clinic / Stock Show Calendar**

A calendar with cows and a badge

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**Weather**

As we all know that we have significantly changing weather this time of year. We need everyone to do their part in helping us keep the doors to the pig barn closed to retain as much heat as possible. When the temperature drops  the heaters can be easily overwhelmed trying to maintain the temperature from just a single door being left open. Please do your part in helping us combat this.

**Hoof Trimming**

Mr. Dunn is available at the beginning of next week to trim hooves. I will leave a sign-up sheet outside of the barn office. Please sign-up on this if you need/want your animal(s)’ hooves trimmed. We need a minimum of ten for him to make the trip over with the chute.

Going forward, since there has been confusion as to order and precedent, we will have a sign in sheet the day of the trimming. You will put your name down as soon as your arrive to the barn after school to reserve your/your animal’s spot in the line.

**GCF&R WinterFest**

We would like to remind you of the upcoming WinterFest event at the Fairgrounds this upcoming weekend, December 1st & 2nd. The Fair will have lots of events for the families to do and vendors for Christmas shopping.

There will also be a Lamb, Goat, and Cattle clinics on December 9, 2023.

The Goat clinic starts at 9:00 AM, Lambs are at 10:30 AM and Cattle start at 1:00 PM.

If you have any questions you can contact Renee Ware @ (409) 986-6010

**GCF&R Lamb & Goat Validation**

Sunday 12/3 is when GCF&R will hold its validation for Market Lambs & Goats. Ms. Coppola & Ms. Ball request that everyone participating be at the barn no later than 8 am. If you are needing transportation for your lamb or goat contact Ms. Coppola immediately via e-mail at: [kcoppoloa@dickinsonisd.org](mailto:kcoppoloa@dickinsonisd.org) or by Band App messaging. We have a limited amount of space and need to make sure that all of our sheep & goats are accounted for.

**GCF&R Pre-Registrations**

We have wrapped up nearly all of the Pre-Registrations for county fair. We only have a few deadlines remaining. Be sure to Pre-Register your animals asap. It helps the fair tremendously with expediting a usually long and grueling process.

Remaining Pre-Registration Deadlines:

* Market Hogs – January 10th (Wednesday)
* Market Broilers – January 11th (Thursday)  [This is also the order deadline for broilers]

**GCF&R Entries**

We are in a holding pattern until the Livestock Office releases the 2024 Entry Forms. Once this happens, we are going to need everyone’s assistance in getting these completed as quickly as possible. We do not prefer to do things this way, but unfortunately the fair and the district business office have our hands tied with policy and procedure.  We will be reaching out once the paperwork is accessible and try to get this wrapped up as efficiently as we can.

**Cattle Barn Update**

Unfortunately it is looking like it will be closer to Christmas that we will be given access to the new facility. Long story short, our builders are still waiting on the weather-proof boxes needed in order for the facility to pass the fire marshal’s inspection. Until these come in, their hands are tied. There may be developments, please stay tuned and we will inform you of any updates as they come in.

Thank you to those that helped accommodate the contractors on Wednesday 11/29. We may have additional days in the very near future where electricians will need to access areas above pens in both the old cattle aisle and the pens in the arena. We will keep you posted. With luck, hopefully all of that can wait until after we switch our penning situation.

Last night our construction superintendent briefed of some better news. The required equipment to meet the Fire Marshal’s requirements has been obtained. Not it is just a matter of securing it, having it installed, and then scheduling and conducting the reinspection. We are another step closer.

**Cattle Pasture**

We are about to transition cattle to the new barn. We posted last night and going forward no cattle are to be turned out into the Lamb & Goat Pasture henceforth. All cattle for the time being are to only use the other pasture on the cattle blow-out area side of the barn. Once we transition, no steers or unbred heifers will be in the old barn at all. Only heavy-bred heifers and cow/calf pairs will remain on the old cattle aisle #3, at this point we will only have a few head needing to access that pasture, making things significantly easier.

Going forward do not turn out cattle into the Lamb & Goat Pasture under any circumstances.

**Dickinson FFA Toy Drive**

A green cover with a stack of presents

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**GCFR Market Broiler Orders**

GCFR broiler orders are due by Thursday January 11th. Order forms can be picked up from Ms. Hastings in room P18.

**HLSR Rabbit and Cavy Registration**

HLSR Rabbit and Cavy registration is officially open. Registration closes February 1st. If you need help registering your animal please email Ms. Hastings or see her in room P18.

**Dickison FFA Showdown Committee**

The Dickinson FFA Showdown Committee will be meeting in Ms. Murphy’s room on Tuesday, December 5th after school S-Hall, room-103. We encourage all members to consider joining the committee as a great way to be a more active member and help contribute to our chapter goals and success.

**Christmas FFA Meeting**

A christmas meeting with candy canes and pine cones

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Major Cattle Ear Tags

We have had a few animals lose or tear out ear tags. I spoke with the county extension agent at swine validation on Monday and she suggested to wait until we get closer to Houston on replacing them. Obviously, if you are showing Fort Worth or San Antonio this remedy will not work. If your animal loses an ear tag, please do our best to try and find it, and hang on to it. Notify me immediately and we can have her come out to retag. If you have a Fort Worth or San Antonio with this issue, please let me know as soon as possible.

Thank you all for your time and attention. Please let us know if you have questions or need assistance. Have a great weekend, and as always,

**GO GATORS!**

A cartoon of a crocodile

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Very Respectfully,

**Mitch Robinson**

**Ag Science Teacher / Barn Manager**

**Dickinson High School - Dickinson ISD**

P.O. Drawer Z

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