Good Morning Gator Nation!!!

The Spring Semester has begun, and it goes without saying that this will fly by with the amount of activity. Fort Worth will be starting next week, followed immediately by Winter Showdown, then San Antonio & Houston, it will be County before we know it. We are doing our best to keep the calendar updated will all pertinent information. If you feel that there is something that should be added for the good of all, please do not hesitate to let me know and we can get it posted. With Majors starting next week, ag teacher’s schedules at the barn will become slightly different. If you have issues, please let me know. Here are our updates for the week:

* **Upcoming Freeze**
* **GCF&R Entries Payment Deadline**
* **Fort Worth Stock Show Parking & Grounds Passes**
* **GCF&R Swine Validation Sunday**
* **Breeders / Jocks / Fitters**
* **Galveston County Fair Volunteer Days**
* **TSCRF Scholarship Applications Due Soon**

**Activity Calendar**



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



**Weather**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  | **1/12**39° / 60° | **1/13**48° / 64° |
| **1/14**44° / 59° | **1/15**23° / 51° | **1/16**25° / 37° | **1/17**44° / 48° | **1/18**45° / 65° | **1/19**37° / 55° | **1/20**38° / 52° |

**Upcoming Freeze**

As discussed, we have some extreme weather headed our way. In situations like this we must have everyone working together to prevent major problems with the facility.

* KEEP THE PIG BARN DOORS CLOSED. We cannot stress this enough. Our heaters need all that they can to be able to maintain a temperature within that barn. All doors closed is actually a better reality.
* Maintenance was contacted last week to give one last weatherization look over before the weather hits. Everything that needs to be insulated should be, if you see something in the barn that looks to be susceptible to damage from freeze please let me know immediately.

**GCF&R Entries Payment Deadline**

Remember that all entry payments for the 2024 Galveston County Fair are due TODAY. You can use the RevTrack QR Code pictured here to make your payment.



**Fort Worth Stock Show Parking & Grounds Passes**

We have a family that unfortunately will not be making the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo this year, but had already registered. If you are interested in additional grounds and/or parking passes, please contact Mrs. Davison directly @ (832) 561-1682. They would like to be able to recoup some of the costs they incurred if at all possible.

**GCF&R Swine Validation Sunday**

Swine tag-in is January 14, 2024, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

THIS Sunday- January 14th.

Exhibitor AND parent/guardian need to pre present. Will be completed in 2 waves.

Wave 1 will leave the barn at 9:30am. Students will be assigned to a wave soon- keep an eye on band. Wave 1 students need to get to the barn at 9 to help ready the trailers. There will be 9 in the gooseneck and 2 in the bumper pull

Wave 2 will leave as soon as wave 1 returns and unloads. Tentatively plan to be at the barn at 12- updates will be posted on band. Wave 2 students will be expected to clean the trailer once they unload.

**Breeders / Jocks / Fitters**

With showtimes getting closer we anticipate having heightened amount traffic in the barn with exhibitor’s Breeders, Jocks, and Fitters making visits. Please be sure and coordinate with your specie advisor if you have one of these persons making a visit to the facility. It is important that we maintain situational awareness and barn security, especially with the transition away from all of the construction traffic on the near horizon.

If you have breeders, jocks, or fitters coming in they must have paperwork on file with us.  We also need to verify their background checks are current, as these do expire on an annual basis. If you did breeder contracts last year, we will honor those, we just need to make sure their background checks with the district are up to date.

**Galveston County Fair Volunteer Days**

All students (not just AG/FFA kids) are eligible to volunteer for up to 3 days during the Galveston County Fair. Eligibility for volunteer days are as follows:

1. Must be Academically Eligible
2. Must be in grades 5-12
3. Must attend 1 of the mandatory meetings at the fairgrounds. Must be on time. Late arrivals will not be allowed entrance
	1. Thurs. February 1st @ 7PM
	2. Mon. February 26th @ 7PM

Students will be assigned up to 3 volunteer days by email from the GCFR Office

* Monday April 15th - Senior Citizens Day
* Tuesday April 16th - Special Kids' Day
* Thursday April 18th - Schools Day

Any students who volunteer any of the 3 days must provide their own transportation to and from the fairgrounds.

**TSCRF Scholarship Applications Due Soon**



Let us know if you have questions or need assistance. Things are about to speed up and quickly, let us know if we can help. Have a great weekend, welcome back, and as always,

**GO GATORS!**



**Very Respectfully,**

**Mitch Robinson**

**Ag Science Teacher / Barn Manager**

**Dickinson High School - Dickinson ISD**

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