Good Morning Gator Nation!!!

By this time next week, Fort Worth will be wrapped up, we will be on Showdown Eve, and we will be knocking on San Antonio’s door. As you can see, things are speeding up with no sign of a pause in the near future. There are also a great deal of moving parts. Pay close attention to the calendars for deadlines and requirements. If you / your student are interested in things like GCF&R Volunteer Days, Scrambles, etc. there are important dates that are posted.  If you have issues or need assistance, please reach out as soon as possible. With a tempo like this, we do not want anything falling into the cracks. Here are our updates for the week:

* **Breeders / Jocks / Fitters**
* **Teacher Absences**
* **Pig/Lamb/Goat Exercise Arena**
* **New Barn**
* **San Antonio / Houston Heifer Health Papers**
* **Cattle Etiquette**
* **GCF&R Ag Mechanics Entries**
* **GCF&R Volunteer Days**
* **GCF&R Scrambles**
* **FFA Banquet Committee**
* **AET Thursdays**

**Activity Calendar**

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

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**Weather**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  | **1/26**  55° / 62° | **1/27**  43° / 60° |
| **1/28**  40° / 60° | **1/29**  43° / 60° | **1/30**  46° / 64° | **1/31**  49° / 65° | **2/1**  52° / 60° | **2/2**  57° / 61° | **2/3**  SHOWDOWN  54° / 65° |

**Breeders / Jocks / Fitters**

With showtime upon us there will be a 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.

Breeders, Jocks, & Fitters are only allowed in the barn when Ag Teachers are present. 2-6 pm M-Th, unless you make a special arrangement.

**Teacher Absences**

With Majors starting last week, we will have teachers leaving for shows in addition to exhibitors. If you need us for any reason, please reach out and let us know.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| 1/21  Fort Worth  Robinson | 1/22  Fort Worth  Robinson | 1/23 | 1/24  Fort Worth  Edenfield | 1/25  Fort Worth  Edenfield | 1/26  Fort Worth  Edenfield | 1/27  Fort Worth  Edenfield |
| 1/28  Fort Worth  Edenfield | 1/29 | 1/30  Fort Worth  Robinson | 1/31  Fort Worth  Robinson | 2/1  Fort Worth  Robinson | 2/3  Fort Worth  Robinson | 2/3  Dickinson Winter  Showdown |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Pig/Lamb/Goat Exercise Arena**

The new exercise arena located in what was the old cattle section is for swine, lambs, and goats ONLY. **Under no circumstances should there be any cattle in that wing of the barn**. Exhibitors, you are still responsible for cleaning behind your animal when it is out of its pen. This is to include to and from the new practice arena as well as within it.

**New Barn**

Though we do not yet have authorization to move into the facility, the arena in the new barn can be utilized by cattle ONLY. At this time, all tack, supplies, and everything pertaining to current animals needs to remain in the old barn. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR CLEANING UP TO, FROM, & WITHIN the new facility if you take your cattle over there.

**San Antonio / Houston Heifer Health Papers**

We have an appointment for Friday, 9 February for Dickinson Breeding Beef Heifers needing Health Papers for San Antonio & Houston with Dr. Knape at 3 pm. Due to rule specifications with each respective show, each heifer will need a set of Health Papers for that individual show respectively (i.e. One set of Health Papers for San Antonio, and a second set for Houston). There will be a raise the cost in having this done, but only for the papers. There will be no additional charge for Doctor’s Visit, Chute Fees, etc. Ms. Murphy and I will be loading heifers up at 2 pm on this date. Please plan on being there (or getting your student excused) to be there to assist.

**Cattle Etiquette**

Exhibitors MUST stop tying up heifers and steers in the blowout area and leaving them. This is against barn policy to begin with, less the fact that we are severely cramped on space and resources. It is perfectly acceptable to work your animals both in the washrack and in the blowout area; but again, do not leave animals there for extended periods of time while you are not with them  / directly working on them. Bathroom breaks are fine, Sonic runs and 20 minutes socializing elsewhere are not.

**GCF&R Ag Mechanics Entries**

Anyone wishing to enter an Ag Mechanics Project in the this year’s Galveston County Fair, the deadline for paperwork & payment is 2/20/2024. If you are interested or have questions, please reach out to Mr. Menotti or Mr. Edenfield.

**GCF&R Volunteer Days**

All students (not just AG/FFA kids) are eligible to volunteer for up to 3 days during the Galveston County Fair, April 15, 16, & 18. Eligibility for volunteer days are as follows:

Must be Academically Eligible

Must be in grades 5-12

Must attend 1 of the mandatory meetings at the fairgrounds. Must be on time. Late arrivals will not be allowed entrance

Thurs. February 1st @ 7PM

Mon. February 26th @ 7PM

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

**GCF&R Scrambles**

ONLINE APPLICATIONS ONLY:

Open from February 1st through February 28th, 2024 using the

“SCRAMBLES” LINK on the [www.galvestoncountyfair.com](http://www.galvestoncountyfair.com) website

**FFA Banquet Committee**

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**AET Thursdays**

Online recordbook keeping system for students in Agriculture

Students with 3 years in FFA are eligible to earn their Lonestar Degree and attend the Texas FFA State Convention

Best to start NOW!

Meet in H103 after school on Thursdays. You can also come during Gator Time

Again, if you need assistance or have questions, reach out and let one of us know. Have a great weekend, and as always,

**GO GATORS!**

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**Very Respectfully,**

**Mitch Robinson**

**Ag Science Teacher / Barn Manager**

**Dickinson High School - Dickinson ISD**

P.O. Drawer Z

Dickinson, TX  77539

281-229-7858

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