Good Morning Gator Nation!!!

As everyone is aware, there is a lot of activity. Please take note of what we are sending out, we do not want anything falling through the cracks. Here are our updates for the week:

* **GCF&R Scramble Entry Deadline**
* **HLSR Tours**
* **Soap**
* **Trash in the Shavings Bunk**
* **Barn Doors / Vehicles**
* **Teacher Absences**
* **Steer Clinic Update**
* **Hoof Trimming**





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



**Weather**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  | **2/23**49° / 76° | **2/24**54° / 76° |
| **2/25**61° / 75° | **2/26**65° / 78° | **2/27**66° / 77° | **2/28**51° / 77° | **2/29**51° / 65° | **3/1**55° / 63° | **3/2**58° / 69° |

**GCF&R Scramble Entry Deadline**

Next Wednesday, February 28th, is the **DEADLINE** for anyone wanting to scramble at this year’s Galveston County Fair.

**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

**HLSR Tours**

Our Tours date will be next Wednesday – 28 February. Next week we will send out our departure time and more information to those participating.

As in previous years, Ag Teachers from all over the area are the people who conduct the “Official Dress Code Check” before students leave the NRG Arena to compete. Being as such, the definition of Official Dress becomes very subjective, meaning some teachers do not always agree on the same issue. Because of this we ask that everyone err on the side of better judgement. If you have a uniform item that is questionable, (i.e. black boots with brown soles, etc.) that you not wear such items the day of competition. Each student has worked significantly to earn the ability to compete, and we would hate for someone to be disqualified over something this minor. The Official Dress requirements for this have been put out since last semester, everyone should be aware of what is required of them and be up to par. If you have an issue, let us know NOW.

Here is what was sent to us by HLSR:

* ***“ Official Dress-****Please make sure that your students are in complete official dress. If black slacks are worn, students must have on black socks. Students should be encouraged to wear comfortable shoes (that are completely black) since there is a lot of walking.  At the meeting, we discussed ALL Black Hey Dudes for the students and the consensus is that they DO fall in official dress for this event because they are completely black. If they have white soles, then they are NOT official dress. If a student is not in official dress before the start of the competition, the teacher must make the call if that student will compete. If they compete and the student is not in official dress the team will be disqualified, if the teacher decides to pull them from competing, they can stand with the teacher at their station without their jacket and assist while the remainder of the team competes as normal.”*

**Soap**

We need everyone to do their due diligence. If your animal is out of the barn for any reason, vet visit, prospect show, major show, etc., once it returns wash it with Antifungal / Antibacterial soap for at least three days. San Antonio is in full swing with Houston and County on the very near horizon. No one wants animals getting sick or infected with ANYTHING, especially if it can be prevented.

**Trash in the Shavings Bunk**

We have done fairly well this year, but all the sudden we are starting to catch  feed/shavings sacks, twine and trash in the shavings bunk. **DO NOT DO THIS!** If you are caught you will face a barn write-up. The dumpster is right next door, sperate your trash. We will be in a VERY bad place if our disposal service refuses to take these roll-off to compost because of trash.

Also, we need everyone to make an effort to dump their wheelbarrows & buckets as far back and deep into the bunk as possible. We should not be bringing as much out into the parking lot as what has been happening.

**Barn Doors / Vehicles**

Everyone is aware that the barn exit gate as well as the new access gates are either stuck open or routinely left open. Facilities & Operations are aware of these circumstances and are working to remedy the matter.

The main barn doors must be closed by those last to leave. Especially with an unsecure facility, an open door is an invitation to a host of things that none of us want. If you are last, or suspect that you will be the last, close the doors before you leave.

There has been an abnormal amount of vehicles that are being left at the barn overnight. We know that some of these were due to carpooling and the like for Fort Worth and San Antonio; but we need everyone to remember; You are not allowed to leave vehicles at the barn over extended periods of time unless you are on official business/trips/etc. Judging contests, majors, and the like are acceptable, any other reason needs to be brought to our attention immediately.

**Teacher Absences**

After Livestock Judging we will officially be done with San Antonio 2024, and Houston will be starting immediately after. Here are our teacher out days for the next two weeks.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| 2/25 | 2/26 | 2/27 | 2/28**HLSR TOURS**MenottiEdenfieldRobinson | 2/29Robinson – out, personal/family | 3/1 | 3/2 |
| 3/3 | 3/4 | 3/5 | 3/6 | 3/7**HLSR Heifers**MenottiMurphy | 3/8**HLSR Heifers**Menotti Murphey**HLSR Hogs**CookRocha | 3/9**HLSR Heifers**MenottiMurphy**HLSR Hogs**CookRocha |

**Steer Clinic Update**

We are scheduled to have a steer clinic next Thursday, 2/29 but are going to have to change the date. I will be out next Thursday and Mr. Edenfield will be leaving town that afternoon. We are going to shoot for Wednesday, 2/28 in the afternoon after we come back from HLSR Tours. We will be focusing on showmanship. Going forward we are attempting to have an outside judge come in at the next calendar scheduled clinic (3/28), running a mock showmanship class and getting pointers before we head into GCFR.

**Hoof Trimming**

I have spoken to most of you directly, but just in case anyone else has concern, we are in the process of getting Mr. Dunn to hopefully make another circuit through the barn to trim hooves before Houston. He has been away with hogs at San Antonio so the stars haven’t been able to line up.  As of right now I have:

McCollum – 3 hd. (possibly)

Diaz – 1

McKibben – Checking to see

Fernandez – 1 hd.

Mathis – 2 hd.

Fehring – 1 hd.

If there is anyone else wanting / needing theirs done before HLSR please e-mail me directly to get on the final head count. He normally will only come out if we have 10 head minimum, but due to the proximity to HLSR, etc. he may make an exception. Once I find out more information I will let everyone know.

If he cannot make the trip, but is still available to trim from their facility we may load up all calves needing trimming and hauling to Santa Fe. Due to the 8-10 week cycle between trimmings, this will likely be our last for the year and more importantly last opportunity to do so before County Fair.

More info to come…

Let us know if you have any issues. Have a great weekend, and as always,

**GO GATORS!**



**Mitch Robinson**

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