Good Morning Gator Nation!!!

With Breeding Beef starting this afternoon, the fair is officially in full swing. Take a look at the departure times that have been designated by specie. There is going to be a great deal of activity over the course of the next week. If you have questions, let one of us know at the earliest opportunity so that we may get you answers. Here are our updates for the week:

* **Volunteer Hours Opportunity**
* **Swine Departure**
* **Goat Departure**
* **Lamb Departure**
* **Steer Departure**
* **Ag Mechanics**
* **Market Turkeys**
* **Market Broilers**
* **Commercial Heifer Departure**
* **Auction Rule Changes**

**Activity Calendar**

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**Volunteer Hours Opportunity**

If there are any students that are in need of volunteer hours, there is an opportunity through Texas Farm Bureau. You will **NOT BE GRANTED AN EXCUSED ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL** for this. This is a great opportunity for students who have animals that make the sale and will have time out at the fair during the week, that are not already doing volunteer days. If you are interested, read the following and sign-up on the website within.

*Brazoria-Galveston County Farm Bureau is once again setting up the Agricultural Education Tent at the Galveston County Fair. The tent will be open every day of the fair and we could really use some help from your students! It's an easy volunteering job - helping the visitors plant a seed to take home, teaching about what plants need to grow and the by-products and growth cycle of different commodities such as cotton, corn and rice, showing the visitors the baby chick hatching station and discussing how that process works, showing them information about bees, etc. I have all the information available for them - they do not need to come with any prior knowledge - but hopefully they will leave with some new knowledge about agriculture and also have some fun!*

*I have attached the link to the SignUp Genius I created with all the shifts available. I made 2 hour shifts, but if a student would like to sign up for consecutive shifts or more than one day - I would welcome the help! It gets busy in the tent sometimes and I can definitely use the additional help!*

[*https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0B45AFAF22A7FC1-48654835-galveston*](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0B45AFAF22A7FC1-48654835-galveston)

**Fair Absences**

All fair absences have been submitted to attendance offices on respective campuses for excusal. **REMEMBER**…If your animal makes auction, you will be excused the remainder of the week to care for the animal while it is on-site at the fairgrounds. You must check-in with the ag teacher of the day by 8:30 for attendance or you will be marked unexcused. Additionally, students cannot leave the fairgrounds between 8:30 am – 2:30 pm without being given permission from the ag teacher of the day, or if they are with their parents. (If you are with your parents you must still communicate your whereabouts with the ag teacher of the day before you leave the fairgrounds.)

***Ag Teacher of the Day***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 4/12 - Friday | 4/13 –  Saturday | 4/14 –  Sunday | 4/15 –  Monday | 4/16 –  Tuesday | 4/17 –  Wednesday | 4/18 –  Thursday | 4/19 –  Friday | 4/20 –  Saturday | 4/21 –  Sunday |
| Ms. Murphy  Ms. Hastings | All  Teachers | Ms. Cook  Ms. Rocha  Mrs. Sizemore  Ms. Coppola | Ms.  Cook  Ms. Rocha  Mrs. Sizemore  Ms. Coppola | Ms. Coppola  Mr. Edenfield | Mr. Edenfield  Mrs.  Sizemore | Ms. Hastings  Mr. Robinson | Ms. Murphy  Mr. Robinson | Ms. Murphy  Ms. Rocha  Mr. Robinson | All Teachers |

**Swine Departure**

All swine exhibitors must be at the barn at 12:45 on Saturday Afternoon.

**Goat Departure**

Goats needing transport from the barn will leave at 8:30 on Sunday Morning.

**Lamb Departure**

All lambs will be departing the barn at 8:15 on Saturday Morning.

**Steer Departure**

All Steers being transported in the school trailer will leave the barn at 3:30 on Monday Afternoon.

**Ag Mechanics**

Ag Mechanics check-in is on Sunday 4/14 from 9-11 am. Students/Parents are responsible for hauling their projects to/from the fair.

**Market Turkeys**

All Market Turkeys will move in Saturday from 10-11 am.

**Market Broilers**

All Market Broilers will move in Saturday from 11-1:30 pm

**Commercial Heifer Departure**

All commercial heifers needing transportation from the school will depart the barn at 4:30 next Thursday, 4/18.

**Auction Rule and General Rule Changes**

Remember these new rules in regards to the sale. All exhibitors are responsible and have been notified on several occasions.

***Galveston County Fair & Rodeo Information***

* *Please read through the exhibitor packet carefully for GCFR rules, there  have been some changes.*
* *The student is responsible for the daily care of their animal project(s) and stall(s) during the fair.*
* *Exhibitor Wristbands gain you entry to the fair each day. Students must wear THEIR wristband at all times. If a wristband breaks, it may be replaced at the livestock office one time, if it breaks again or it is lost, it will cost the exhibitor $5.*
* *Your Exhibitor Number must be worn during your show. If you lose your number, please go to the livestock office.*
* *If you need paperwork regarding commitments, auction/commitment add-ons, substitute exhibitor, stand-in exhibitor, proof of delivery, etc. please get with your species advisor or the livestock office.*
* *All students are excused from school the day of their show and the day after. However, it is up to the parents if their child comes to the fairgrounds or goes to school. Please notify an Ag Teacher if your student will be attending school. You still must arrange for your animal to be cared for. If a student is excused they must check in with an Ag Teacher on duty by 8:30 AM for attendance. If a student is excused and not present, the school will be notified of the truancy.*
* *On school days, there will be 2 or more Ag Teachers on duty at the fairgrounds during school hours (8:30a-2:30p) daily. Students are* ***NOT*** *allowed to leave the fairgrounds during school hours unless permitted by an Ag Teacher or with their parent/guardian.*
* *If a market animal exhibitor makes auction or their animal places high enough and their animal must stay on the grounds, that student will be excused for the rest of the week.*
* *If your livestock project makes the Jr Market Auction, you are required to attend the auction on April 17th.* ***NO BUYER GIFTS ALLOWED ON GCF&R PREMISES.*** *Pictures will be taken with the buyer and exhibitor only. Exhibitor, parent, guardian, shall NOT approach Buyer for special considerations. Exhibitors selling in the Auction are prohibited from making any substitutions of items sold.*
* *The student is responsible for getting to and from the fairgrounds daily. They must also bring their own food/drinks or money to purchase food from the vendors on site.*
* *Students will need to bring their own feed and supplies needed to care for their animal. It is suggested to keep items in a lockable showbox.*
* *Show boxes will be brought to the fairgrounds on Thursday, April 11th. If you would like for us to take your showbox, please have it in the middle drive of the barn with your last name and designated area marked on your box. You are responsible for picking up your box and any other personal items from the fairgrounds by Sunday April 21st.*
* *The FFA will purchase Tractor Supply Shavings for use while at the fairgrounds. These will be on site in our box trailer if you wish to use them.*
* *Students while there with their projects are representatives of Dickinson FFA and should dress and behave appropriately while on the fairgrounds. All DISD Student Code of Conduct rules apply.*
* *All animals returning to the barn still must be properly cared for until their departure date on or before Saturday April 27th.*
* *Non-Auction animals will return to the Ag Barn on the dates specified in the livestock schedule. You are responsible for seeking a buyer or commitment for your animal. All animals (except for second year breeding heifers) must leave the Ag Barn on or before April 27th.* ***NO EXCEPTIONS!***
* *Commitment animals will be hauled back to the fairgrounds at 7:00 AM on 4/27.*
* *Once animals have been removed from the barn on 4/27 students will be responsible for cleaning out pens, lockers, and storage areas and removing all personal items* ***BEFORE*** *the barn clean up on 5/4.*
* ***Mandatory Barn Clean Out!*** *Saturday May 4th 9:00 AM. Bring ALL barn keys with you. Only upon completion of a satisfactory barn clean up and returning your keys, your barn deposit will be returned to you. Barn deposits will only be returned on Barn Clean Up Day and can not be rolled over to next year. Failure to attend will result in forfeiture of barn deposit and risk of not being allowed in the barn next year. Excused absence from barn clean up consists of medical emergency with doctors note, or UIL event with note from coach/sponsor (48 hours in advance)*
* *If keys are not returned on or before 5/4, your deposit will be forfeited.*
* *Barn Keys will be reassigned for those requiring barn access after the barn clean up day (officers, breeding heifer exhibitors, etc.). If returning, new barn keys will be issued at the barn contract meeting*

A year’s worth of work now comes down to one week. Best of luck to everyone in the ring, scramble arena, and at each respective competition. Our chapter is being represented in just about every way possible at fair. This is the most appropriate time to say:

**GO GATORS!**

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**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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