Good Morning Gator Nation!!!

Here are the updates for the week:

* **Academics**
* **Swine Clinic Next Week**
* **Upcoming Steer Clinic**
* **2024-2025 Officer Team Mandatory Meeting**
* **Cattle Tying**
* **Alumni Chapter Interest Form**
* **HLSR Tours Meeting**

**Activity Calendar**



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



**Weather**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  | **2/16**53° / 64° | **2/17**41° / 56° |
| **2/18**48° / 59° | **2/19**56° / 71° | **2/20**59° / 76° | **2/21**62° / 75° | **2/22**56° / 76° | **2/23**55° / 71° | **2/24**58° / 67° |

Temperatures will dip over the weekend, but it looks like we have a pretty decent warm up coming during the week. Lets keep those swine barn doors closed over the weekend and allow the heaters to do their job.

**Academics**

All exhibitors must stay on top of their academic responsibilities & obligations. We are in that time of year where things start slipping, and unfortunately members end up getting excluded from shows due to eligibility. Be proactive and stay on top of your classwork now. If you are traveling to majors and missing school, make sure that you are staying caught up with your work.

From the Barn Contract:

*“****NO PASS, NO PLAY*** *– Any student that is declared ineligible will not be able to show nor have a substitute exhibitor show his/her animal in any show or event, or participate in any FFA activities. The only exception for GCF&R is if the animal was family tagged with a sibling. All ineligible students have 7 calendar days for removal of animal(s) from the barn after notification (GCF&R Only). Eligibility will be determined by UIL eligibility rules and STAAR scores and is at the sole discretion of the Ag Teachers and Administrators.”*

**Swine Clinic Next Week**

There will be a mandatory Swine clinic next week on Wednesday the 21st. As a reminder, you must attend your mandatory clinics. Missing one will constitute a written warning, but after the second you will receive a barn write-up.

**Upcoming Steer Clinic**

We will be having a steer clinic on Thursday, 29 February 2024. The clinic will be mandatory for steer exhibitors. Make plans to be in attendance. We will be going over showmanship skills as well as doing some cleaning. We would like to focus on some showmanship aspects that we may have an outside judge come through in March to help our exhibitors get dialed in just before county fair.

Unfortunately our previous clinics were cancelled as October’s fell on the date for county validation and we were hauling animals; November’s fell on a day where the district cancelled all afterschool activity due to weather; and January’s was during Fort Worth. However, we still have some time before fair and will utilize February & March’s scheduled dates.

**Cattle Tying**

We know that this is an inconvenience, but it is a necessary one we must make nevertheless. We simply do not have the amount of space at present to accommodate everything at the same time. If you need to tie your steer or heifer while you clean you pen you may do so either in the cattle pasture or you can take it to the new arena and tie it there. With the limited space it is not fair to tie these animals in the washracks or the blow-out area while other people are trying to use them. Hopefully the weather will hold just a little longer and allow the pasture to dry out. Everyone also has the option of the new arena for this, but you must be responsible and clean up after your animal the same as you would in the washrack/blow-out area.

**2024-2025 Officer Team Mandatory Meeting**

There will be a MANDATORY meeting for all officer candidates on Tuesday, February 27, 2024 in S106 immediately after school (2:45pm).

We will go over the election process, important dates and the officer contract. If you do not attend, you will not be eligible to run for office for the 2024/2025 school year.

**Alumni Chapter Interest Form**



For those of you who missed it, Mrs. Sizemore & Mr. Edenfield held a brief meeting in conjunction with this Wednesday’s FFA Chapter meeting with a group of parents discussing the potential and benefits of starting a chartered Alumni Chapter. We need parents, relatives, and general community members to get this idea off of the ground. There is a great deal of potential in starting this organization, we highly encourage you to consider and tell other family/community members about this. Please see the interest form below.

<https://forms.gle/1jjkgzgdQ4WwG6xd9>

This is open to literally ANYONE. Prior FFA membership, or alumni status from DHS are NOT required. Businesses are welcome as well.

**Teacher Absences**

San Antonio is now in full swing. Here are our outs for the week.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| 2/11 | 2/12 | 2/13 | 2/14 | 2/15San Antonio HeifersEdenfield | 2/16San Antonio HeifersEdenfield | 2/17 |
| 2/18 | 2/19San AntonioSteersEdenfield | 2/20San Antonio SteersEdenfield | 2/21 | 2/22 | 2/23 | 2/24 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**HLSR Tours Meeting**

We will be meeting with all members participating in HLSR Tours on Tuesday, 2/22 at the Barn Office immediately after school. We need to make sure everyone has all of the required uniform items and talking points for the day of the contest. If you have not turned in your indemnity form to Mr. Robinson, bring it on this day.

Have a great weekend. Let us know if you have questions or need assistance. As always,

**GO GATORS!**



**Mitch Robinson**

**Ag Science Teacher / Barn Manager**

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