Good Morning Gator Nation!!!

Another week in the books, and another day closer to a half dozen deadlines, requirements, and events. There is going to be a lot of movement in the coming weeks and months, please stayed tuned to our calendar to stay on top of important deadlines. Here are our updates for the week:

* **Barn Issues**
* **Storage Stall Movement**
* **2024 GCF&R Rules**
* **GCF&R Pre-Registration**
* **Pork Butt Donations**
* **The Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Foundation Scholarships**
* **FFA Jackets**
* **Hoof Trimming**

**Activity Calendar**

Please take note of important dates. We have Tag-Order Deadlines and GCF&R Pre-Registration Dates that are coming up quickly. We do not want anyone to miss out on an opportunity over a simple paperwork oversight.

A calendar with a date

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**Barn Issues**

All exhibitors currently in the barn sat in contract meetings, have read the contract and know the rules and expectations. There has been a great deal of sloppiness taking place in the barn in terms of manure being left in the common areas. If you do this and intentionally leave your mess, there will be consequences. Everyone is responsible for cleaning up behind their animals, but especially once they are outside of their pens. No one wants a mandatory weekend barn clean-up. Start policing your areas or we will be forced to have everyone participate in a weekend clean-up to get the barn back in order. We know that situations are not optimal with the construction, but there is a huge difference between construction clutter and manure left in common areas intentionally.

The Lamb & Goat Wash Rack Area that has been altered for cattle use will need to be returned to its previous condition very soon. Start planning on sharing the cattle wash rack until the new barn opens.

**Storage Stall Movement**

We have to ask whoever has their tack & supplies stored in this stall to please move it elsewhere by Saturday, 9/16/2023. We have lambs moving into the barn this weekend, and they will be occupying this pen. We know that this is an inconvenience, but we are only 6 ½ weeks away from moving into the new barn. Please take care of this by tomorrow, all species need the ability to occupy their areas.

A metal cage with people in it

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**2024 GCF&R Rules**

The updated rules for the 2024 Galveston County Fair & Rodeo have been scanned in and added to the website. Important Date, such as tag-ins, breed by dates, entry deadlines, move-in/move-outs, and show times have also all been added to the calendar on the FFA Website.

<https://dickinson.ffanow.org/default.aspx?ID=71298>

**GCF&R Pre-Registration**

ALL Animals **MUST Pre-Register** for all validations and tag-ins.

Pre-Registration opens on October 2nd and closes by species at the date and time listed below. To pre-register click the link below:

[**GCFR Pre-Registration**](http://glaveston.fairwire.com/)

Steers - October 18th by 11:59pm

Breeding & Commercial Heifers - October 25th by 11:59pm

Turkeys - October 26th by 11:59pm

Lambs & Goats - November 29th by 11:59pm

Rabbits - January 4th by 11:59pm

Swine - January 10th by 11:59pm

Broilers - January 11th by 11:59pm

**Pork Butt Donations**

Dickinson Homecoming is right around the corner. With the activities of Homecoming Week comes of course the Homecoming Carnival on October the 11th. We will be  selling pulled pork sandwiches and sausages on a stick during the carnival. We are asking for donations of pork butts from any parents, families, or community members that are willing to contribute. We can start collecting butts now if you are willing to donate. If you will be donating, but would rather wait until we’re closer to the carnival, please remember that they must be thawed if you are dropping them off any time after October 6th.

**The Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Foundation Scholarships**

The Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Foundation offers scholarships to students pursuing a degree in agriculture or an agriculture-related program.

Applicants must be graduating high school seniors or college undergraduates currently enrolled or accepted at an accredited university in Texas or Oklahoma.  Applicants are selected on the basis of their interest in the industry, leadership, academic achievement, and financial need.

Applications are due February 2, 2024.

Scholarships are awarded in late March.

Please contact 817.332.8551 or email [cattleraisersmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:cattleraisersmuseum@gmail.com) for additional information.

**FFA Jackets**

Contest season is right around the corner. Students have been asking and are interested in ordering their own FFA Jackets. We will put out instructions on how to order yours in next week’s newsletter. Jackets are now all ordered online through the FFA store by the members. We must remind everyone to be EXTREMELY careful in determining your student’s jacket size. Once it is ordered and sewn, it cannot be returned or exchanged. We will be sending out the guide on how to do this, within it is also a phone number for the National FFA. Please contact them if you have any questions.

**Hoof Trimming**

We know that many are anxious and in need of a hoof trimming for steers and heifers. We are working with the construction crews to clear the main barn breezeway to allow us to have this at our barn, rather than having to trailer all of our animals to Santa Fe and back. We will nail down a date or dates with Mr. Dunn and should have a plan in place in time for next week’s newsletter.

Lastly, Steers, please remember to attend weigh-ins each Thursday afternoon if possible. We only need you for about 5 minutes, just long enough to take your calf’s weight and a quick picture. Whenever you get to the barn on Thursdays, just let me know that you’re ready, we can do this really fast, and you can go about your business.

Thank you to everyone for your patience and candor with all that is going on. We have had a high number of barn contract meetings with even more on the horizon. We know that this is a tedious process, but we have to ensure that all requirements are correctly met to be in compliance with district protocol.

The barn construction and conditions have been taxing and tiresome, but they are starting to wrap up. Let’s keep our eyes on the prize. We are on the cusp of a new and outstanding facility in a matter of weeks. As always, if anyone has any problems, questions, or concerns, please reach out to one of us. Thank you for your time and attention. Have a great weekend, and…

**GO GATORS!**

A cartoon of a crocodile

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**Mitch Robinson**

**Ag Science Teacher / Barn Manager**

**Dickinson High School - Dickinson ISD**

P.O. Drawer Z

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