



Happy New Year! It's going to be a great year for GCFFA. This month, it's all about the Fort Worth Stock Show! Quickly on its heels, our youth will be focused on the Tarrant County Junior Livestock Show, so make sure you're prepping for buyer and add-on letters. More details inside.



GCFFA students are busy getting ready for one of the biggest events of the year: The Fort Worth Stock Show. Our members are showing heifers, steers, longhorns, lambs and goats. Whether you've shown most of your life or are going to Fort Worth for the first time, it's always exciting. Over the next 3 weeks, there will be lots of livestock moving in and out of the barn, countless hours of hard work invested and memories made. And dig out all your warm clothes because it's shaping up to be some typical "stock show weather." **Good luck to all our exhibitors at the Fort Worth Stock Show!**

Make sure you're watching for emails from Mr. McGrew and Mrs. Bemenderfer with packing lists, clipping schedules and all the details you need to be organized and successful.

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE STOCK SHOW TRADITIONS? CHECK OUT SOME OF OURS IN OUR "TIPS FOR FAMILIES"

GCFFA Show Schedule for Fort Worth Stock Show 2018

| <u>Day</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Event</u> | <u>Exhibitors</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|----------------|-------------|--|---|-----------------------|
| Sun., Jan.14 | 2:00 PM | Open Beefmaster Cattle | Presley Lux, Kamry Pearson, Kenlie Pearson, Matthew Vance, Sophia Vance | Watt Arena |
| Mon., Jan. 15 | 9:00 AM | Junior Longhorn | Megan Bush, Riley Bush, Brenna Casella, Grant Tinkis, Christine Trimmer | Watt Arena |
| Tues., Jan. 16 | 5:00 PM | Open Longhorn | Megan Bush, Riley Bush, Brenna Casella, Grant Tinkis, Christine Trimmer | Watt Arena |
| Sat., Jan. 20 | 1:00 PM | Junior Beefmaster Heifers | Emerson Dean, Presley Lux, Kamry Pearson, Kenlie Pearson, Joseph Restivo, Matthew Vance, Sophia Vance, Ryan Wells, Sarah Wells | Watt Arena, East Ring |
| Sat., Jan. 20 | 1:00 PM | Junior Polled Hereford Heifers | Hannah Gallegos | Watt Arena |
| Sun., Jan. 21 | 1:00 PM | Junior Angus Heifers | Emily Gray | Watt Arena, West Ring |
| Mon., Jan. 22 | 8:00 AM | Junior Brahman Heifers | Nate Ward | Watt Arena, East Ring |
| Sat., Jan. 27 | 8:00 AM | Junior Wether Lambs* | Kaitlyn Carlson, Drake Dancila, Savannah Hopper, Reagan Schwestka, Keaton Sims | Sheep Arena |
| Sat., Jan. 27 | 10:00 AM | Junior Wether Goats* | Blaire Cook, Jamie Fredette, Maya Jarwan, Madison Klein, Ellie LaCroix, Emily Scoggins, Sydney Stiles, Sydney Turgeon, Avery Vorachard, Dakota Wright | Swine Arena |
| Sun., Jan. 28 | 8:00 AM | Junior Wether Lambs* | | Sheep Arena |
| Sun., Jan. 28 | 10:00 AM | Junior Wether Goats* | | Swine Arena |
| Mon., Jan. 29 | 8:00 AM | Open Hereford/Polled | Hannah Gallegos | Watt Arena |
| Thurs., Feb. 1 | 8:00 AM | Junior Steer Show – Angus, Hereford, Polled Hereford, Shorthorn, American Crossbred Classes, Light Weight European Crossbred Classes | Jonathan Briscoe - Heavy Weight American Cross, Lorren Hall - Light Weight European Cross | Watt Arena |
| Fri., Feb. 2 | 8:00 AM | Junior Steer Show – Medium and Heavy Weight European Crossbred Classes | Scott Blaxton - Medium Weight European Cross, Savannah Hopper - Medium Weight European Cross | Watt Arena |
| Sat., Feb. 3 | 9:00 AM | Junior Sale of Champions - Steers, Lambs, Barrows, and Wether Goats | | West Arena |

*** We won't know show days for lambs and goats until classes are posted after weigh-in**

For a complete schedule of events, visit: <https://fwssr.com/livestock-premium-list/>

Fort Worth Stock Show Tips for Students

1. Make sure you pay attention to the advisors about what you need, where you need to be and when.
2. Bring a chair.
3. You will need money for eating and shopping. But bring snacks too.
4. Eat a cinnamon roll. And a loaded baked potato.
5. Bring a variety of clothes. It's going to be cold, but you really warm up walking your animal.
6. Start a group text with kids and parents in your breed. Helps with schedules. Some classes go faster than others.
7. Don't bother with hair and make-up until after you bathe your animal. There are places in the barn to get ready.
8. If you leave the grounds during the day, you probably won't have anywhere to park when you return.
9. Get your animal used to the footing in the area leading up to the ring and in the ring.
10. Practice in the show ring in the days before show if allowed. Get comfortable in there.
11. Get familiar with where you go in the arena and the make ready area before you show.
12. If you have a lamb, make sure you have someone to hand your halter to before you enter the ring.
13. Watch other people show. Watch the judge. Watch the ring stewards.
14. Be prepared for possible questions from the judge.
15. Support your fellow GCFFA members.
16. Don't just sit in the pen all day – lots to see and do.
17. Go to the rodeo.
18. Remember that the FWSSR is attended by 1.5 million people. Many have never set foot on a ranch or in a barn. Be a good ambassador 😊
19. Go to the parade. Lots of horses. No motorized vehicles. Old tradition.
20. Be prepared and do your best, but showing livestock is much more than a place in a class line-up.
21. The actual time spent in the show ring is very short. Make the most of your whole FWSSR experience. Enjoy the opportunity to participate in this Fort Worth tradition that started in 1896.

Fort Worth Stock Show Tips for Families

Here are some tips from veteran Stock Show families:

1. Make sure your student is paying attention to the advisors and communicating with you about what they need, where they need to be and when.
2. The lamb barn is dusty! More so than any of the other ones. Just so you know.
3. Bring a chair. There will be lots of sitting – for kids and parents.
4. The lamb and goat barns are crowded. Not much room, but people get pretty creative.
5. Your grounds pass also gets you into the Museum of Science and History, National Cowgirl Museum and Cattle Raisers Museum.
6. You're going to need more \$ than you think – for food and shopping.
7. Bring snacks. For your child and for the group.
8. Get out of the barn and walk around!
9. Start a group text with kids and parents in your breed. Helps with schedules. Some classes go faster than others.
10. Lamb and goat families – save seats early on show morning, especially if you're in an early class. Or save seats as a group and rotate in and out of the stands.
11. Consider a wagon or cart for hauling all your stuff in and out of the barn.
12. If you leave the grounds during the day, you probably won't have anywhere to park when you return.
13. Go to the rodeo.
14. Go to the parade. Lots of horses. No motorized vehicles. Old tradition.
15. Parking/traffic might be worse than normal because of the new arena construction.
16. Step outside behind the barns and watch the kids walk their animals in the parking lot 😊



CHAPTER NEWS

Senior Scholarships

Scholarship packets will be available after County and will be due two weeks before banquet. You don't have to raise an animal to apply for a scholarship. Scholarships will be announced at banquet.

State Officers

Texas FFA State Officers will visit our chapter on Feb. 7 at 1:30pm. All students who want to attend need to sign up in advance so Mrs. Bemenderfer can put them on the field trip list.

Cook Book

Recipes. Recipes. Recipes. Recipes.

New Blowers

Make sure your student knows how to use the new blowers – both sides must be on. Have them see Mr. McGrew if they don't know how to use them or where to put them in.

Main Street Days

May 19-21. One of our biggest fundraisers of the year. Like Grapefest, we have the opportunity to use the Master Made parking lot and man an entry gate, so we need lots of parent and student volunteers 😊



Banquet - Save the Date

Friday, May 4

Location to be announced.

Buyer and Add-on Letters for Tarrant County Junior Livestock Show

Buyer/Add-On letters are a way for students to raise money for their livestock projects above and beyond auction or market price. They are also a great way to tell your community what you've been working on. Many people are eager to support hard working youth who are working to preserve involvement in agriculture and ranching, as well as help them invest in larger projects.

You do not have to make sale to receive add-ons.

- Your letters should be mailed about a month before county. *If your student is showing at FWSSR, this is a great time to get a photo of your student and their project to use in your letters.*
- Who do you send letters to? Family, friends, neighbors, business associates, community businesses, doctors, etc. Start making your list and gathering addresses now.
- You can have add-ons sent directly to you and turn them in on sale day. Or you can have them sent to TCJLS, but you won't be able to track them.
- You can register and bid on your child's project.

GCFFA will hold a Buyers' Letter workshop on Sunday, Jan. 28. More information to come.

Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve.

2017-2018 GCFFA Calendar

September

- 11 District 2 Mtg 5-8pm (Officers/Advisors)
- 12 Kick-Off at Nash Farms 6:30-8:30pm
- 14-17 Grapefest (Parking Lot Fundraiser)
- 23-25 Area V Greenhand Camp
- 27 CHHS Homecoming Parade
- 28 GHS Homecoming Parade
- 29-Oct 22 State Fair of Texas

October

- 1-22 State Fair of Texas Continues
- 2 FFA Dues Due
- 5-14 Heart of Texas Fair and Rodeo
- 10 Ag Awareness Day @ State Fair
FFA Meeting (6PM students, 7PM parents)
- 14 Nash Farm Fall Round-up 10AM-2PM
Volunteers Needed!
- 22 Junior Member Skating Party
- 24 Kendra Scott Fundraiser 5-8PM
- 26 Validation
- 29 Major Barn Clean-up 2-6PM
- 30 Major Stock Show Entry 6-7PM

November

- 6 District 2 LDE's 5-9PM Springtown
- 7 FFA Meeting (6PM students, 7PM parents)
- 11 Open Barn 12-3PM
- 15 Area V LDE Contest
- 28 County Stock Show Entry Night 6-7PM

December

- 4 District 2 Banquet 6:30-8:30PM (Azle)
- 7 Grapevine Parade of Lights 7PM
- 9-10 Winter Buckle Show
- 11-15 Secret Santa
- 12 School Show 6-8PM
- 15 Christmas Party 6-8PM

January

- 9 FFA Meeting (6PM students, 7PM parents)
- 12-Feb 4 Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo
- 28 Buyers' Letter Workshop

February

- 1-4 FWSSR Continues
- 1 Spring FFA Dues Due
- 1-18 San Angelo Stock Show
- 6 FFA Meeting (6PM students, 7PM parents)
- 8-25 San Antonio Livestock Show
- 19-23 National FFA Week
- 27-18 Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo

March

- 1-3 Tarrant County Jr Livestock Show
- 6 FFA Meeting (6PM students, 7PM parents)
- 19 Texas FFA Scholarship Apps Due
- 22 Tarleton Invitational CDEs
- 24 Texas A&M CDE Clinics
- 27 Potential Officer Meeting 4-5PM

April

- 9 Potential Officer Apps Due
- 10 FFA Meeting/Officer Elections
- 14 Texas FFA Scholarship Interviews
- 17 TAMU Commerce Area CDEs
- 18 Tarleton Area CDE Contest
- 23 District 2 Degree Check 5-6PM
- 30 Lone Star Degree Check

May

- 4 Banquet
- 5 Area V Degree Check
- 12 Area Candidate Interviews
- 14 Area V Convention (Prosper)
- 19-21 Main Street Days - Fundraiser
- 28 ALC Registration Due

June

- 11-13 Area Leadership Conf (A) Officers Only
- 18-20 Area Leadership Conf (B) Officers Only

July

- 9-13 FFA State Convention (Dallas)

"Remind"

Please join the advisors remind group. It's their quickest and most effective way to communicate with parents and students. Text @9ae88 to (682) 237-8297.

Website, Facebook, Twitter

School FFA website: grapevine-colleyville.ffanow.org

Facebook: [@FriendsofGrapevineColleyvilleFFA](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofGrapevineColleyvilleFFA) and "GCFFA Families." This group is meant for this year's families to exchange information, ask questions and post photos. Search for group and ask to join (closed group).

Twitter: [@gcfffriends](https://twitter.com/gcfffriends)