**Barn Check today**

Our next barn check is today after school. From here on out every Tuesday will be a barn check unless noted otherwise. If anyone needs a ride please have them let us know in advance so we can accommodate. Remember barn checks are essential and required for animal raisers. This is the prime time to ask your animal advisor any questions you may have, work on showing your animal, and talk about the overall health of the animal.

**December FFA Meeting – Thursday, 12/3 at 6:45pm**

It’s almost time for our annual Soups and Spoons FFA Meeting. Officers will have information to share with the chapter while we enjoy our dinner, then students and parents will be asked to play our spoons tournament (card game – and easy to learn). Everyone is responsible for going into Shutterfly and signing up to bring an item: Soup, Chili, or Salad. Need to become a member of our Shutterfly account? Email Heather Anderson – heatherranderson@katyisd.org or Erica Hamilton - elhamilton77@yahoo.com

We need EVERYONE to bring something for this to be a success. If families do not sign up for items they wish to bring then they will get assigned to bring something.

Rabbits & Chickens-desserts

Goats-desserts

Steers-drinks

Pigs-crock pot meals (chili, soups, etc)

Lambs-salads

It’s a time of year to be with your family and be thankful for all that you have. In December the Maverick FFA family likes to do just that with a small dinner meeting and festive time with each other. Remember that all FFA meetings are mandatory for animal raisers, but we encourage all FFA members to attend.

**Community Service Opportunity: Accepting Donations now**

The Mavericks FFA always likes to go above and beyond, each year we sponsor a family through the Katy ISD Santa Cops program. Ag teachers will be accepting financial donations in the form of cash or gift card (to Wal-Mart) so officers can go shopping to maximize the items on the children’s wish list.

$5.00 is good for 1/2 community service hour – we are not limiting the amount of hours students can buy out to contribute to this good cause. Please begin bringing money or gift cards to the ag teachers ASAP. December 3rd is the final day to bring money or gift cards to contribute to Santa Cops.

**Battle in the Barn – Sat. 12/12**

On December 12th we will conduct the 10th Annual “Battle in the Barn”.  Students received information and entry forms Monday Nov 30th in their ag classes.  7:15am the morning of the 12th we will haul Livestock (sheep, goats, hogs, cattle) to the LD Robinson Pavilion.  Member showmanship clinics will be held first-thing mid-morning, given by our Alumni.  In the afternoon we will have a student showmanship show and then an MRHS faculty show.  Students’ entry fee will be to invite & secure an MRHS faculty showman to show their project.  Awards will be given to winners and everyone will gain valuable experience.  This is something the faculty and staff look forward to each year.  Eligibility does not affect Battle in the Barn – all students are encouraged to find a teacher and to participate but this is not a mandatory event.

**Eligibility**

Monday 11-9 began the first day of the 3rd six weeks, progress report grades were due yesterday (11/30).  Although academic excellence is always the first priority for MRHS FFA members, from this point forward it is critical for members raising animals for KISD Livestock Show.  Work hard in all of your classes to not only show your animals, but to strengthen your GPA and reach your highest academic potential.

 The KISD Livestock Show is February 17th – 20th

Students will remain academically eligible if they meet one of the following:

1)                  Student passes all classes 3rd Six Weeks Report Card  OR

2)                  Student passes 4th Six Weeks Progress Report

3rd six weeks ends 12-18

4th six weeks progress reports 1-25

The KISD Progress Show is January 8th – 9th

Students must pass all classes 2nd six weeks or 3rd six weeks progress report to participate.

**Barn Procedures**

Parents are always welcome at the barn but remember you are still on KISD grounds – NO TABACCO of any kind and ***NO PARKING IN THE BACK*.** Also, we expect each student to provide proper care for animals and the facility.  Rules have been clearly explained - specifically concerning guests, driving, cleanup, hours, daily care, and barn duties.  At no point should students, parents, siblings, or guest touch other student’s projects or go into their pen or barrel unless asked. Everyone should contribute to the overall cleanliness and appearance of the barn – sweep in front of your pen, take out the trash when needed, keep wash rack area rinsed and clean, push wheel barrel to the front of the bunk when empting shavings, return equipment to the proper storage area, etc.  We have several students who manage projects, provide daily care, and assist in barn maintenance perfectly.  For those who need reminding we will start with an encouraging word and progress to consequences when expectations are not met. Thanks to everyone who contributes to help make our barn a place for learning, winning, and fun.  Get to work!

**X2vol – logging community service**

You will be logging your community service in X2VOL. If you already have an account make sure you add FFA to your groups. If you do NOT already have an account. Go to [www.x2vol.com](http://www.x2vol.com) in the top right click on the word JOIN. Then follow the steps to get your account set up. Once you have an account and have added FFA to your groups then you can start logging in hours. You will click on log hours and enter in your information. Ms. Nite will approve when you add the group and the hours that you log. If you have questions go see her. Deadline is Jan 22nd.

You cannot double dip MAV hours and FFA hours – you MUST choose where your hours will count! ***Several students have yet to sign up in x2vol – please make sure you get this done ASAP!***

**FROM THE BOOSTER CLUB:**

**Adult T-shirts will be delivered at Soups and Spoons Meeting this Thursday.  Please see me if you ordered one.**

**December Meeting – POT LUCK**

December 3rd Meeting is fast approaching, please be sure to sign up for the pot luck on Shutterfly.  The theme is soups and spoons with the alumni auction at the end of the meeting.   If you have not signed up for shutterfly to join the MORTON RANCH group please let Erica or Heather know asap so we can add your email.  We share a lot of pictures and communication reminders on there.  We are also looking for a few volunteers to help with decorating the tables before the pot luck starting about 4:30.  Please let Erica  know if you are interested in helping with this.

**Cookies**

This is a huge money maker for us.  Profiting an average of $200 a week. We are in need of more volunteers if you can help come on Friday to the main office and tell them you are there to help with cookies.  We bake from 7:30 1015, and sell from 1015 until gone  (usually about 1 pm).  The more help we can get the better.

Battle in the Barn is coming December 12, 2015- the booster club is providing lunch for the students showing,the teachers, and the alumni conducting the showmanship clinics in the morning a big thanks to rudy's for donating the meat and condiments.   We may have a limited number of plates to sell to the parents and guests.  Please let us know if you have any questions.

**Adult FFA Volunteer Hours to me by emailing them to:**

**elhamilton77@yahoo.com** **or texting to 832-517-8577.**

**Upcoming Dates (partial list)**

12-7     Meat Fruit Delivery Week

12-8     Barn Check

12-12     Battle in the Barn

12-15     Barn Check

12-18 End of Semester/4th 6 weeks

12-21/1-4       Winter break

Advisors:

Advisors:

Mr. Charlie Boyce                           281-237-7880              charlieboyce@katyisd.org

Ms. Abby Bozarth                           281-237-7985              abbybozarth@katyisd.org

Mr. Colby Finke                               281-237-7871              colbyfinke@katyisd.org

Ms. Stephanie Nite                         281-237-9624              Stephaniegnite@katyisd.org

Mr. Cory Spikes                               281-237-7919              Corylspikes@katyisd.org

If you have questions about any of the above, or anything else (explanation, conflicts, etc.) please ask.

If your e-mail has changed or we have missed someone please let us know.

If you would prefer not to receive e-mails from an MRHS advisor in the future, please let us know and we will remove you from the e-mail list.