**Happy New Year!!!**

**Chicken Raisers**

Chickens arrive today. Pick up is at the pavilion at 6pm. If you have questions please see Ms. Nite. Good luck with your little birds!

**January FFA Meeting – 1/7 @ 6:45pm**

The January FFA and Parent meeting is Thursday, January 7th at 6:45 pm. The FFA meeting will be held in the commons and the parent meeting will meet in LGI. Booster Club meeting will cover progress show silent auction, progress show details as far as what the students need to get ready for and what to bring, add-ons and much more. The FFA meeting will give the kids a glimpse at CDE teams and what MRHS FFA has to offer this semester, officers will also discuss in detail the progress show. All FFA meetings are **mandatory** for the students exhibiting animals and provide pertinent information to both students and parents. Students please wear your Chapter T-Shirt to school on Thursday.

**Progress Show - Sat. 1/9**

On January 9th we will be participating in the KISD FFA Progress Show.  Hogs, goats, sheep, and steers will compete for awards in showmanship and livestock evaluation against FFA members from all KISD Schools. Students had to have passed the 2nd six weeks in order to exhibit at progress show.  Also, the booster clubs will have a silent auction. The show begins at 8:00 am on Saturday 1/9 with steers and will move through each species as the previous one completes.

Advisors will haul animals: sheep, goats, and pigs to the LD Robinson Pavilion on Friday during school- all exhibitors will show on Saturday morning. Sheep, goat, and pig raisers will need to go straight to the LD Robinson Pavilion on Friday right after school.  Students must have passed all classes for the second six weeks or regained eligibility on 3rd six week progress report to participate.

We look forward to each Maverick working hard to prepare, supporting each other during the progress show, and investing a great deal to learn at the Progress Show.  Each student should strive hard to prepare animals for show, improve showmanship skills, and support each other during the Progress Show on Friday and Saturday.  Get Tough, Get To work.  Be a champion!  Bring home the Buckles!

**Rabbits Arrive - Mon. Jan. 11th**

Many mavericks will finally get what they have been waiting a long time for, rabbits will arrive on Monday 1/11.  Students should meet Mr. Spikes at the LD Robinson Pavilion right after school to draw order for your rabbits. Any other information on rabbits can be addressed to Mr. Spikes.  Good Luck Rabbit raisers and pick a good pen.

**Barn Checks**

“Barn Checks” provide the organized time for a focused opportunity to share valuable information, complete essential barn maintenance, and interact directly with students and their animals.  Attendance to these informative and instructional meetings is vital to success and scheduling conflicts should be discussed with your Advisor in advance.

All students need to be aware of the weather and keep animals warm.  Sheep and Goats need to have socks and/or blankets and pigs extra clean shavings. It is imperative that the animals remain dry and warm. With the cold weather sometimes water gets shut off at the barn. When this happens we will send out information on the animal raisers remind. If you would still like to join that remind text @animal1516 to 81010.

For those who need reminding, we tried an encouraging word and progressed to consequences when expectations are not met.  Keep the barn clean, follow rules, keep pens clean/dry, feed on a schedule, monitor weather, feed as instructed, monitor animal health, and work hard with animal and showmanship**.**

The barn cleanup, alley, wash rack, emptying trash is students’ responsibility.  Overall, we need to do more!!  More with each animal and more in the barn!  If a student is unwilling to assist in barn cleanup, it is a good indicator that they are unwilling to do all things necessary for their animal’s success.  Thank you to everyone who contributes to help make our barn a place for learning, winning and fun.

Upcoming barn checks:

* *January 12*
* *January 19*
* *January 26*
* *February 2*
* *February 9*
* *February 16*

***CDE “JUDGING TEAMS”***

For those students who enjoyed participating on LDE teams in the Fall or enjoyed Livestock Judging at one of the county fairs, the Spring kick off season for CDEs is soon.  Students sign up on the sheets will be in the ag hallway on the white board tomorrow, so the ag teachers know you’re interested.  Listen for announcements soon for practice schedules and details about upcoming contests.  Come to the meeting Thursday night to hear more details on CDE opportunities. Contests are approaching fast so practices will be well underway!

***Academic Eligibility***

*Tuesday, January 5th marks the first day of the 4th six weeks.  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, HLSR, and on a CDE team.  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 – 20st*

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

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

*2)                 Student passes all classes 4th Six Weeks Progress Report*

*4th six weeks progress report grades are due 1/25*

* *regain eligibility on 2/1: remove animal from barn by 2/8 if students did not regain eligibility*

*The KISD Progress Show is January 8th & 9th*

*Students must have passed all classes* ***2nd six weeks or regained eligibility on 3rd six weeks progress report*** *to participate.  Students were notified if they are not eligible to show.*

**Remaining Show Requirements**

Community Service Deadline                  01/22    (All Members = 10 documented hours in x2vol)

Others

       Record books (continue to keep all receipts related to animal projects)

         Catalog book delivery (early February)

         Attend all FFA meetings and barn checks

         Haircuts, earrings, ISS, OSS

**Barn Procedures**

Parents are always welcome at the barn but remember you are still on KISD grounds – **NO TABACCO** of any kind! 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.  We have several students who manage projects, provide daily care, 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. Katy ISD Ag Science Teachers are the final authorities of rules, regulations, and animals questions concerning any of these need to be directed to a teacher.   Thanks to everyone who contributes to help make our barn a place for learning, winning, and fun.  Get to work!

**Maverick FFA as a Team**

Parents and Students please keep in mind that although there is tough competition between students with in our own chapter in the end we are **THE MORTON RANCH FFA** and we are a **Team.** Ag teachers are the first to understand that there is always going to be *FRIENDLY* competition between our own students within our own chapter and the students are doing it for the best interest of the chapter and to better themselves in the long run. At no point should a student or parent do anything to deface or bring down the MR FFA. *EVERYONE* – parents, students and teachers should work together as a family and as a TEAM to help one another out from the barn to the classroom. Complements are heard around Katy ISD for the team spirit and comradely of the Mavericks – please keep this feeling up at home, in school, at the barn, at contest, and within your friendships. At all times the MAVERICK WAY is encouraged.

***FROM THE BOOSTER CLUB***

**Parent Meeting** – Please join us for this month’s parent meeting Thursday night at 6:45pm in the LGI. There will be important information shared regarding our upcoming shows.

**Silent Auction** - Saturday is our annual Progress Show. Traditionally a silent auction is held in conjunction with the show. All of the FFA chapters participate to help raise extra money for their chapters. The silent auction is set up by school and will begin at 8:00am and close at 11:30am.

-        **We will need Volunteers to monitor tables during the auction; if you are interested you can sign up at the parent meeting on thursday or send an email to** **elhamilton77@yahoo.com**

**Cookies** --***Resuming Baking January 15th***

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 7:30-10:15, and sell from 10:15 until gone (usually about 1 pm).  The more help we can get the better.

Thanks,

Erica

**Upcoming Events**

1-5         Barn Check

1-6         Broiler Delivery

1-7         FFA & Booster Club meeting

1-8      Move in for progress show

1-9      KISD Progress Show

1-11      Rabbit Delivery @ LDR after school

1-12       Barn Check

1-12       Gain/Lose Eligibility

1-18      MLK Holiday

1-19       Barn Check

1-26       Barn Check

1-29      Klein Invitational Judging Contest

1-30       Weimer/Columbus Invitational Judging Contest

2-2         Barn Check

2-4 Katy Invitational Judging Contest

2-4       FFA and Booster Club Meeting 6:45pm

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.