**Champion Teacher**

To kick off the show Ag teachers encouraged students to purchase a t-shirt for a teacher or faculty member that has given them support, guided them in the right direction, or possibly even helped them with a grade or two. This is a nice gesture for students to say thank you to their teachers or faculty around the building. Our faculty and staff take this gesture as a big honor to receive this shirt and understand what it means to be the “grand champion” in the livestock industry.  This is not only for animal raisers but animal raisers are highly encouraged to participate. The more Grand Champion shirts there are around the school the better.  Teachers will wear their Grand Champion T-shirt on Wednesday 2/17 to kick off the show week.

The order form was passed out in classes, **money is due today, Tuesday 2/9.** Students will get their shirts to pass out to their teachers on Tuesday 2/15.

**FFA Breakfast – For the LOVE of the FFA 2/11**

It is an annual tradition that the Mavericks receive their FFA jacket at a breakfast. This year the breakfast will be held on February 11th at 6:30am in the in the LGI. ALL students who raised $500.00 in fundraising this year will wear their official dress to school all day. If students previously earned a jacket they will come to the breakfast already in official dress. For students receiving their jacket for the first time or a new jacket they will come in everything but the jacket and tie/scarf. The Mavericks take a lot of pride in official dress and it is evident the day of the FFA breakfast.

*Girls correct official dress*: black closed toe dress shoes, black tights or pantyhose, plain black skirt that reaches the knee, white button up collared shirt.

*Boys correct official dress*: black closed toe boots/dress shoes, black slacks, white button up collared shirt.

**Annual Buyer Search – 2/11**

Each year Mavericks are known for going out to the Katy Community and inviting buyers to come to the livestock show and rodeo. Students should already be asking buyers on their own behalf to come to the livestock show and be a prospective buyer or to support them. The buyer search allows students go out in groups and cover the Katy area with a Maverick brochure inviting local business to the show. *Students should be signing up on the white board in the ag hallway if they are interested in participating in buyer search, so we can plan accordingly and make sure we have enough drivers.* This is one aspect that sets the mavericks apart from everyone else and Ag teachers and parents hear great things from the community about the students of Morton Ranch. Students are already in official dress for the FFA Breakfast so why not take advantage of it!

**KISD Calf Scramblers**

Morton Ranch had many students that turned in their calf scramble applications, the following students will be scrambling during the KISD Livestock Show and Rodeo. If you would like to see your child scramble, it is wise to buy rodeo tickets in advance.  *If your child catches a calf, $150.00 will go towards raising a project for the 2015-2016 school year.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Thursday Night 2/18** | **Friday Night 2/19** | **Saturday Night 2/20** |
| Raul PartidaRobbyn BrownTyler Hamilton | Daniel ValdezJeffrey Johnson | Allyson PenaSamantha HamiltonDalton Yudell |

**CDE – “Judging Teams”**

Practices are getting under way and contests are quickly approaching. If your child did not get to come to the initial meeting for a judging team but still wants to try out for a team tell them to find the coach of the team to get the practice schedule. Keep in mind in the end only 4 students get to advance to the Area contest to compete in their represented team.  Students are also responsible for their entry fee for each contest they attend along with the cost of their lunch.

Teams and coaches are as followed:  *Students must be eligible to compete!*

* Vet Tech – Mr. Spikes
* Wildlife –Ms. Bozarth
* Floriculture – Ms. Bozarth
* Horse – Mr. Spikes
* Dairy Cattle – Ms. Nite
* Ag. Marketing – Ms. Nite/Ms. Bozarth
* Poultry – Mr. Finke
* Meats – Mr. Finke
* Milk Quality – Mr. Boyce
* Land – Mr. Spikes
* Livestock – Ms. Nite
* Forage – Ms. Nite

Up Coming Contest and entry amount:

* **Prairie View Invitational ($10.00)** –Floriculture, Vet tech, Wildlife

**Contest Results**

Thursday, 2/4, mavericks competed at the Katy Invitational Judging contest.

* Livestock: Jakob Blazo, Tayler Beckett, Dalton Yudell, Blayne Maxfeldt, and Carlos Marquez placed 57th
* Poultry: Daniel Rodriguez, Samantha Hamilton, and Cheyenne Murphy placed 15th
* Floriculture: Miracle Swiger, Kristy Martinez, Robbyn Brown, and Laura Myerscough placed 35th
* Wildlife: Nelsy Gutierrez, Tyler Hamilton, Mark Herring, Iseah Gallardo, and Dustin Johannsen placed 33rd
* Vet Tech: Trysta Dyer, Lauren Olsen, Daniel Valdez, and Isabella Stokes placed 10th
* Milk Quality: Samantha Ebanks, Evan Gertner, Chris Cantu and Evelyn Reyes placed 12th

Friday, 2/5, Mavericks competed again at the Ridgepoint Invitational Judging contest.

* Livestock: Jacob Anderson, Jakob Blazo, Tayler Beckett, Dalton Yudell, Blayne Maxfeldt, and Carlos Marquez placed 29th
* Poultry: Daniel Rodriguez, Samantha Hamilton, Nick McDaniel, and Cheyenne Murphy placed 9th
* Floriculture: Miracle Swiger, and Kristy Martinez placed 32nd
* Wildlife: Nelsy Gutierrez, Tyler Hamilton, Mark Herring, Iseah Gallardo, and Dustin Johannsen placed 15th
* Vet Tech: Trysta Dyer, Lauren Olsen, Daniel Valdez, and Isabella Stokes placed 5th
* Milk Quality: Samantha Ebanks, Evan Gertner, Chris Cantu and Evelyn Reyes placed 12th

**Barn Checks – very essential**

“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. Attached you will find cold weather procedures.

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:

* *February 9*
* *February 16*

**Buyers**

It is imperative that students raising projects are reaching out to businesses and inviting them to the KISD livestock show. Attached you will find an example of buyer letter. Creating a buyer letter allows the students to leave something with the business so they remember you and provides the buyer with the information they need to know. If someone is interested in becoming a buyer they can register early through [www.katyisdlivestockshow.org](http://www.katyisdlivestockshow.org) or the day of the auction during the buyers’ luncheon. Do not forget to invite the buyers to attend the luncheon. Ag teachers will look over your buyer letter if you would like.

**Add-on Form attached**

Add on forms can be found online at [www.katyisdlivestockshow.org](http://www.katyisdlivestockshow.org).

Please read through the attachment for more details. Remember it is important to get **add-ons** and a **buyer** to the show, we are enforcing the rule if your animal does not sale during the live auction or in the barn sale it will be sold for market price. All add-on forms need to be turned into Ms. Nite or mailed by February 8th if you receive add-ons after that date you need to turn them into the sale office during the show.

**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, 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. Katy ISD Ag Science Teachers are the final authorities of rules, regulations, and animals questions concerning any of this 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 **this includes commenting on social networking sites**. ***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, on social sites, at FFA events, and within your friendships. At all times the MAVERICK WAY is encouraged.

**Livestock Show Schedule**

*All Livestock judging events held at the L.D. Robinson Pavilion*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| DATE & TIME  |   |           EVENT  |
| Wednesday, February 17  |   | 10:00am – Special Pals RodeoArrival of steers, goats, lambs and hogs by 5:00pm. Weigh-In will be between 4:00pm and 5:00pm*Chapter meeting at the conclusion of all species weigh - in* |
|  |
| Thursday, February 18  |   | *Chapter meeting at 7:00am*7:30am – Broiler Show 8:00am – Hog Show2:00pm – Goat show*Chapter meeting at the conclusion of the Goat show*5:00pm – Horticultural Check-in 5:30pm – Horticultural Judging  |
|   |
| Friday, February 19  |    | *Chapter meeting at 7:00am*7:30am - Rabbit Show 11:00am - Lamb Show12:00pm Ag. Mechanics Show 1:00pm – Steer Show*Chapter meeting at the conclusion auction set-up* |
|   |
| Saturday, February 20  |    | *Chapter meeting at 7:30am*7:00am Barn Sale9:30am Parade11:00 am Buyer’s Luncheon - [Leonard Merrell Center](http://www.merrellcenter.org/map.htm)  1:00 pm Livestock Auction - L.D. Robinson Pavilion   |

Livestock Auction Buyer's Information: [www.katyisdlivestockshow.org](http://www.katyisdlivestockshow.org)

**Ad Books**

Ad books will arrive at some point this week and will be distributed to the students as soon as they arrive. Students will need get them to the persons that they go to ASAP!!! If the student can’t remember who needs to get an Ad book, they may see Ms. Bozarth to get the names.

**MRHS FFA Website**

Ms. Bozarth has been working on updating our FFA website. Check out the new look and watch it periodically for updates or refer here if you have questions.

[www.mortonranch.ffanow.org](file:///E%3A%5CFFA%5CWeekly%20Emails%5Cwww.mortonranch.ffanow.org)

**BOOSTER CLUB NEWS:**

With the Katy Livestock Show & Rodeo just a little over a week away, we need to finalize volunteers for snacks and supervision in the tent.  I have added **3 sign up sheets on shutterfly**.  One is for snacks, one for volunteers on Thursday and one for Friday. **If you can please sign up for a time slot to volunteer it would be greatly appreciated.**

**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.

**Thanks to all the volunteers that help out the chapter and the children!!!**

Adult FFA Volunteer Hours to me by emailing them to:

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

**Upcoming Events**

2-9 Barn Check

2-11 FFA Breakfast

2-11 Buyer Search

2-16 Barn Check

2-17 Special Rodeo

2-18 KISD Livestock Show

2-19 KISD Livestock Show

2-20 KISD Livestock Show

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.