



# GEORGE RANCH FFA

*The FFA Ranch Hand Newsletter*

August 25, 2019

## Monday, Monday, Monday!

It's game time! Tomorrow morning, bright and early close to 5,000 teachers, staff and students will return to the Longhorn Nation campuses on FM 762. So, give them that extra long hug in the morning and let's have a great start to the 2019-20 school year. AND... Please drive safe! That is a lot of excited people all trying to navigate through the construction!

## Join us for details and dinner!

We want to catch up with everyone at our monthly meeting Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the GRHS Cafeteria. EVERYONE is invited to join us! ALL ag. science students and PARENTS too! And don't forget the younger siblings... we have JR. FFA activities for students 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grades.

Never been an FFA member or booster; not a problem! It is time to come out and meet the family, ask the questions and see who we are today. We aren't just cows, sows and plows or weeds, seeds and feeds...we are leaders and achievers, learners and servers, teams with dreams...we are the FFA.

We will even make it easier by providing you with dinner! Bring the family and join us for some pizza at 6:30 p.m. before the meeting starts. We do ask that you RSVP so that we can make sure we have plenty of food for everyone. See you then!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10CoB44AEA929A7FC1-ffaparent>



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—FFA MOTTO—

# It's Show Time!

Fair time is practically upon us and there is a lot of important information for our exhibitors on the fair website <https://fortbendcountyfair.com/events/livestock> . Please make sure you are diligent in keeping up with the show schedule, rules and deadlines.

If you are not exhibiting animals at the fair, you can still participate in a number of different areas in the Home Economics competitions. This is open to FFA students and adults as well. Check out the following websites for more information:

<https://fortbendcountyfair.com/events/2019/4-h-department8>

<https://fortbendcountyfair.com/events/2019/open-adult-creative-arts-department8>

## Thursday, Sept. 26

7:00 PM Turkey Show

## Friday, Sept. 27

8:00 AM Rabbit Show

11:00 AM Commercial Heifer Show

6:00 PM Goat Show

## Saturday, Sept. 28

9:00 AM Broiler Show

6:30 PM Steer Show

## Sunday, Sept. 29

4:00 PM Swine Show

## Monday, Sept. 30

8:00 PM Roaster Show

## Tuesday, Oct. 1

6:30 PM Lamb Show

## Wednesday, Oct. 2

7:00 PM Scramble Heifer Show - Scramble Heifer Judging



## GR FFA Alumni Alerts!

Our GR FFA Alumni group met for their fall Bar-B-Q Social on August 16th. The group is composed of former GR FFA members who have graduated, but still want to remain in contact with each other and offer support to the chapter when possible. The members shared their college experiences thus far and joined in good hearted yet very competitive games! Christopher Flores-Lopez, current alumni president, would like to extend membership opportunities to GR FFA graduates who would like to join the alumni group. He can be contacted via text at 281-919-3053 or e-mail at [chris.mat.lopez@gmail.com](mailto:chris.mat.lopez@gmail.com) . The group plans to meet again during the winter break and hopes to welcome more members at that time.



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## Animal Information!

**Current Fort Bend County Fair Participants**- Make sure you are receiving the species specific remind101 messages. If not please contact Mr. Brown ASAP so that you do not miss out on any important show information. All market animals should be weighed weekly and those weights should be texted to Mr. Brown. Data is important when making feed adjustments so please stay on top of this item of business.

**Animal Interest Forms**- Attached to this e-mail you will find the animal interest form. If you are interested in showing any of the listed animals, please complete the form and return it to Mr. Brown by the stated due date. This is just a survey of interest which is used to begin conversations with Mr. Brown, the student and his or her parents regarding animal projects. It does not guarantee a stall or confirm commitment on the student's behalf. Please fill one out if you think this is something you may want to try or if you just want more information on a 1:1 basis.

It is highly advised that you do not show at the major shows unless you have shown that species at the Fort Bend County Fair first.

There have been changes to the district barn policy and documents including species barn entry dates. Please do not assume anything is the same and be sure to read all correspondences carefully.

**Fort Bend County Fair Scramble Heifers**- If your child would like to scramble at the Fort Bend County Fair for the chance to win a scramble certificate redeemable for funds to help purchase a registered heifer project please contact Mr. Brown ASAP. There are many things that need to be discussed prior to your registration with the fair association.

## Join or Renew Your Membership



The fall membership enrollment period is now OPEN! We will be accepting membership forms and payment from now through our October 7<sup>th</sup> FFA meeting. Student membership forms are also attached in this email. The membership fee covers local, district, area, state and national dues for the student for the term of one year and must be renewed annually in addition to being enrolled in an agriculture science class to retain FFA membership.

Booster club membership forms will be available at the September Booster Club Meeting.



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## It's the Pits



Here's a huge 'THANK – YOU!' shout out to our members and parents who came out to the American Legion Hall to support *It's the Pits Cookers* and their annual fundraiser event on Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup>. Our chapter was well represented by these individuals who donated their time to help prep., serve, clear tables and clean up after the event.

Volunteering is great for college and scholarship opportunities as well as networking and building responsibility and a variety of career worthy skills, but most importantly it empowers us to connect with others and our community and is a powerful way to teach morals and empathy toward others.



I was fortunate to have heard a story about the affect Eric Luckett had on Joseph, one of the It's the Pit's members, while volunteering with them at the county fair last year. This young man changed lives and made a lasting affect and it all started with the act of volunteering. Elizabeth Andrew is quoted as saying, *"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart."* Want to know the rest of the story? Ask Mr. Luckett or me at the next meeting! We would be happy to share his powerful tale. Remember, lessons are even more powerful when families and friends volunteer together! If you did not have the opportunity to become involved this time don't worry. We will have several other community service opportunities for you to participate in throughout the year! We hope to see you at our next event!

## Meet the 2019-20 GR FFA President Jillian Voehl



**How many years have you been a GR FFA member?** 5

**What is the highest FFA degree you have earned?** Chapter degree

**How did you come about joining GR FFA?**

"My sister started showing cows when I was in 7th grade which was weird because we had done nothing but competitive cheer leading before that, she then talked me into joining Mrs. Browns class insisting that I'd have a blast, but I was determined to simply get a good grade and leave all agriculture classes behind after 8th grade. Then, one day after school my sister told me that she signed me up for FFA (which i wanted no part of at that time) and said she couldn't take it back because she already paid. At that point, Mrs. Brown had free reign to convince me to join an LDE team and I became the president of the Jr. chapter conducting team. I met one of my best friends and decided to stick with FFA and compete in LDEs, CDEs, and raise my own heifer."

**What FFA activities have you participated in?** "I calf-scrambled three times at the Fort Bend County Fair and caught a calf to win \$1000 to go toward my heifers Cosmo, Cleo, and Fiona. Almost every fall since I've joined FFA I have been in chapter conducting acting as a president or secretary. I was a part of the Food Science and Technology team & placed 3rd individual at James Madison Invitational contest. Then my team and I traveled to Lubbock for the state competition. I also raise steers & run for fair queen."

**What is your favorite FFA memory?** "My favorite FFA memory would have to be my first trip to State Convention when I was sentinel. I had a blast and loved meeting new people. I think that you aren't truly in FFA until you go to State Conventions."

**What other things are you interested in?** "I'm going on my 16th year as a competitive cheer leader, I am an athletic trainer for George Ranch, and I coach athletes with special on Saturdays. All the stuff I do is so much fun and really awesome, but my favorite thing to do is getting to go home and take a nap."

**What are your future plans?** "I'm hoping to go to A&M to study Urban and Regional planning."



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# ~::~Booster Club Beat~::~

## *Updates and News*

Your dedicated booster club parents know that being a student member of the GR FFA Chapter is more than learning about cows, sows, and plows or weeds, seeds and feeds, but truly is about raising responsible, civic minded, young adult leaders who are equipped with valuable life lessons and real word experience which helps them to excel well beyond high school.

Our dedicated George Ranch FFA Booster Club works to promote community awareness and provide financial support for GRHS's FFA Chapter conventions, conferences, contests, banquets and other needs, as well as, provide member scholarships.

The club is open to any family with an interest in supporting the George Ranch FFA Chapter and its members. And.... boy, have the executive and fundraising committees been working hard this summer to prepare some amazing opportunities for fundraising!

After ten years of being on a waiting list for a concession stand at the Fort Bend County Fair, our name has come up. We will be taking over a concession stand in the most prime location on the grounds. For those of you that have been around as long as I have, it was the Lamar Choir Loft for as long as I can remember. This opportunity is in the early stages and more information will be provided in the near future. Please just know, we are going to need everyone's help in our new adventure. We are coming up with a menu and believe we will need 6 student volunteers and 2-3 adult volunteers per shift. Please make sure you read all emails sent out to keep you informed of the new developments in our club. Please use the link below to reserve your spot to help us during the fair in this amazing opportunity!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0445AEAD28A64-fbcf>



The second item of business is a new sponsorship program. We are asking each booster club family (but would love your help even if you are not a current booster club member!) to visit five local businesses and promote our sponsorship program. We have provided you with a sponsorship letter and sponsorship form to present to the businesses as attachments. There are three different sponsorship levels starting at only \$50.00. Each level has advertising benefits and are a tax-deductible donation. **ANNUAL BOOSTER CLUB DUES ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM.** In other words, you cannot pay an additional \$10.00 on top of the \$40.00 booster club dues and receive sponsorship benefits. We have sponsors that will cover the cost of sponsor t-shirts and a sponsor banner, now we just need sponsors to fill them up. We need to have all forms mailed to the address provided or you can make arrangements to meet with Randy or Kim Voehl for a pick up. All sponsorships must be received by the September 3rd booster club meeting. We want to have the banner and t-shirts done before the fair starts so we can show off our sponsors.

*THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE!*



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# And in Last Week's News:

## Let's Stay Connected!

We want to make every effort to ensure that you are connected and well informed this year so please take a minute to sign up for remind101, book mark our website and follow our social media accounts! The remind101 are NEW groups-so please sign up!

FFA Parents remind101: Text @9h42eb to the number 81010

FFA members remind101: Text @ffau to the number 81010

Chapter website: [www.georgeranchffa.ffanow.org](http://www.georgeranchffa.ffanow.org)

Twitter and Instagram: @GeorgeRanchFFA

GR FFA Booster Club: [georgeranchffabooster@gmail.com](mailto:georgeranchffabooster@gmail.com)

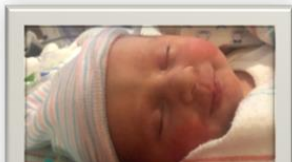
Mr. Brown email and phone: [dvbrown@lcisd.org](mailto:dvbrown@lcisd.org) 281-204-3062 (cell) 832-223-4359 (office)

Mrs. Brown email: [pfbrown@lcisd.org](mailto:pfbrown@lcisd.org)

Mrs. Haley email: [lhaley@lcisd.org](mailto:lhaley@lcisd.org)

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## Hello Murphy Jean Schroeder!



The GRFFA family is beyond excited to welcome baby *Murphy Jean* to the family! She made her grand arrival on Monday, August 12<sup>th</sup>! So, if you are scheduled to be in one of Mrs. Schroeder's class you will start the year off with a long-term sub for a week or two, but never fear, Mrs. Schroeder will return to class after a little quality time with this cutie!

## Meet the 2019-20 Officer Team

You'll be learning more about these student leaders in future newsletters!



From left to right. Top row- Kate Rabich (Historian), Alex Thompson (Vice President), Nick Braddy (Chaplin), Jillian Voehl (President), Skylar Higginbotham (Treasurer) Bottom row- Pamela Brown (Sentinel), Marlies Cumings (Secretary), Brynn Bostick (Reporter)



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