

Southside FFA
NEWSLETTER

January 2025

Updates



January Happenings

2025 has blasted off with events taking place as early as January 4th! Christmas break always means no rest for the weary as the Bexar County Junior Livestock Show requires students to prep and exhibit their animals during the holidays and we are proud of all the hard work they and their parents do to make BCJLS a success. January 4th saw the Bexar County Junior Livestock Show culminate with the Auction of Champions which took place at the BCJLS Fairgrounds. Congratulations to each and every exhibitor!

As we close out the month of January many students will be preparing for their upcoming Major stock shows such as SALE, Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo, and Rodeo Austin. Students are also preparing for upcoming Career Development Events which will begin in February and run through the end of April. If you have questions about dates for Major shows, please refer to the Premium Books for each show. Links provided below in the Newsletter.

Many seniors have begun scholarship applications, so please be on the lookout for available scholarships so that you can assist your students. You can find more information about available scholarships on the FFA website.

If you would like to add someone to our mailing list, please send it to dustin.rogers@southsideisd.org

[Southside FFA Website](#)

Bexar County Junior Livestock Show Auction of Champions!

From December 27-30th, over 40 animal, ag mechanics or creative arts projects were entered into this year's Bexar County Show. Southside FFA had over 20 students make the auction and the ability to come away with funds to help pay for college and future projects. The Southside FFA is thankful for the buyers who made the effort and time to attend and for all who purchased add-ons.

Scholarship Announcement from the BCJLS Website:

"Each year, the BCJLS awards several \$500 scholarships for students to attend colleges and trade schools. We ask scholarship applicants about the cost of their education and their anticipated return on investment. If you are interested in contributing to the scholarship fund, please contact BCJLS vice president Mark Haverkorn at MarkH@bcjls.com or speak to any of our directors. Thank you! This year, application numbers were up for the 12 scholarships we awarded. The recipients are hard workers with impressive resumes. Several are Ambassadors, an honor that required an in-person interview and an expectation that they would work many hour with the BCJLS this year. Way to go! "

Izabella Kibiger, Southside FFA (L to R)

Mileena Sanchez, Southside FFA

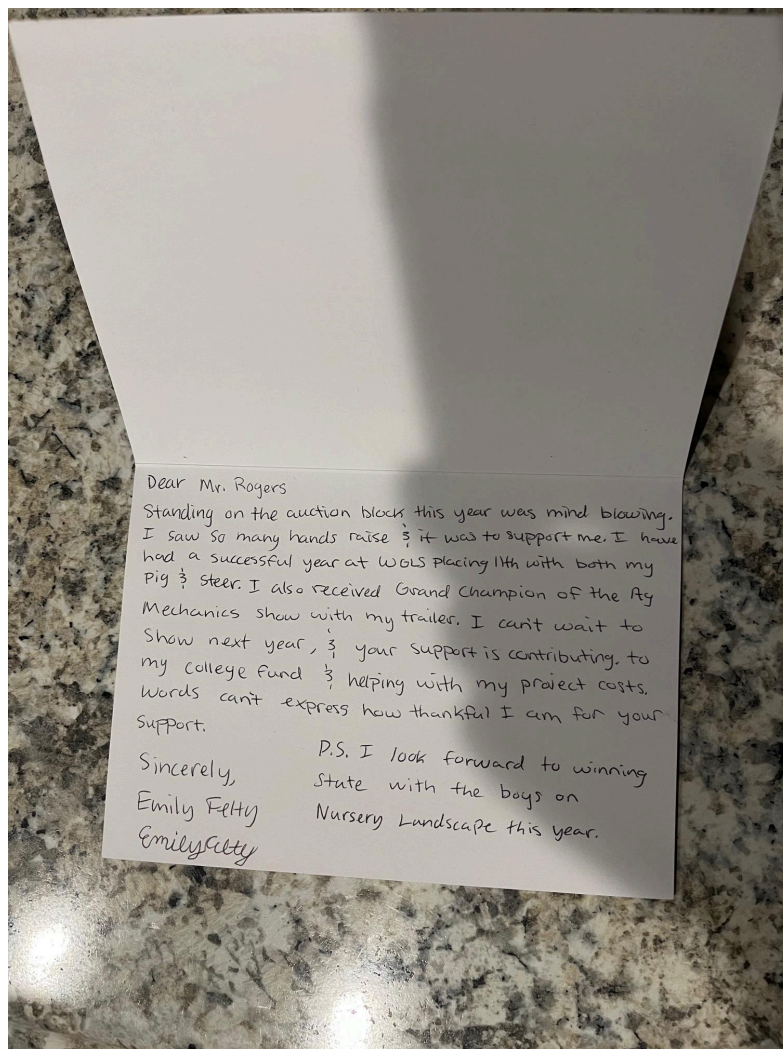
Melany Avila, Southside FFA



Congratulations to Mileena, Izabella, and Melany for their hard work and dedication! They each served as BCJLS Ambassadors for this year's show and have attended all of the BCJLS meetings along with Mr. Iredale. There were many candidates this year for the 12 scholarships that were awarded and these 3 ladies were selected for this generous scholarship!

Bexar County Junior Livestock Show Thank You Letters are due by Friday, January 31st. All letters should be addressed, stamped, and sealed before turning in to an ag teacher. We will check the buyer list with your submitted envelopes and will deliver them to BCJLS. Any letters not submitted will result in a forfeiture of sale funds.

Sample thank you letter



The BCJLS add-on portal is supposed to be open until January 31st if you still want to do add-ons for an exhibitor. [BCJLS Online Add-on Portal](#)

Southside BBQ = Winning Time!

Update from Mr. Iredale:

“Sorry for the delay in getting this great news to ya'll but I was under the weather the last couple of days. This past Saturday Southside FFA had 3 teams compete at the San Antonio Rodeo JJunior Pitmaster Challenge. It was a long, very cool and windy day but when everything was done Southside shined. These kids got up there at 4am on Saturday to light their fires and start getting their meats ready. It was a very cold morning and stayed pretty cool most of the day, but they fought through it and made the most of their time there. Here are the results.

Blowin Smoke: (Nikko Garcia and Matthew Rivas)

Chicken- Final table 13th place

Ribs-7th place



Brisket- 9th Place

Red Storm BBQ: (Zach Ramos and Macie Goff)

Brisket- 1st Place



Overall- 6th Place

Barbie-Q's:(Galilea Beitez and Samantha Clark)

Brisket- 8th Place





There were 38 teams at this contest."

Spring CDE practices have started!

Contest Practice Schedules

Vet Science - Mondays and Wednesdays

Forage - Tuesdays and Thursdays

Wool - Wednesdays

Nursery/Landscape - Mondays and Thursdays

Wildlife - Mondays

Ag Engineering - Wednesdays

Forestry - Tuesdays

Ag Mech Shop Open - Tuesdays and Thursdays after school

Practice attendance factors into whether a student makes a team. CDE teams consist of 4 members, so please understand that signing up for a team does not automatically result in your student “making” the travel team. Area teams will consist of the highest-scoring members as well as those who attend practices. Also, UIL eligibility rules are followed for CDE teams, so please bear that in mind.

Online contests will need to be paid by each contestant this year! Usually \$10-15/contest

Early tentative CDE schedule:

Feb 5 - SALE Nursery/Landscape

Feb 12 - East Central Vet Science

Feb 26 - Schreiner Univ. CDE's - Vet

Feb 27 - Karnes City - Vet/Nursery

Dress-code for CDEs - Jeans (no holes), collared shirt, close-toed shoes; scrubs for Vet Science.

Stock Show Links for Rules, etc.:

[SALE Premium List](#)

[San Angelo Premium List](#)

[Austin Premium List](#)

[Rio Grande Valley Premium List](#)

If you have a question about rules or dates, please check the premium books first.

Scholarship Information

Ag Specific Scholarship: [Vestal](#)

Texas FFA & Bexar County SALE scholarships will open soon, please be watching.

Important '25-26 class scheduling notes:

1. Floral Design **IS** recognized by TEA as a Fine Arts credit.
2. Sometimes that course maybe the only one available if their schedule is tight, but it does provide the extra benefit of being an art credit.
3. Advanced Animal Science and Advanced Plant and Soil Science do count as a Science credit, if that is desired. Pre-requisites have changed for '25-26!
4. Floral Design will now be offered as an 8th grade elective at both Matthey and Losoya MS for the '25-26 school year.
5. Students are expected to obtain an Industry Certification in their respective pathway (Animal/Plant/Ag Mech)

Officer Applications for '25-26 now open!

Please check the Chapter website for the Google Form Link

[Southside FFA Website](#)

Important Updates and Reminders!

***Progress Reports will come out next in 3 weeks (6 week mark). Please be diligent about grades and checking on grades as some students are needing to regain eligibility! If your student is not academically eligible they will not be able to participate at Major shows or compete in CDE's!**

***Next regular chapter meeting will be in April! No February or March meetings due to Stock Show season!**

***Chapter calendar can be found on the Southside [FFA Website](#) !**

*** Animal exhibitors/CDE/LDE team members will need to join species SportsYou App for general info. Access codes can be found on the Southside FFA Website. Please join if you haven't, yet! [SportsYou Codes](#)**

***Please ensure your students are not missing classes outside of emergencies! Attendance is a priority! Let's start the year off strong!**

***Officer applications for '25-26 are now open. Please visit the Chapter Website to apply. Applications will close in early March.**

Student/Parent/Exhibitor Expectations

- * Ag students should not miss school unless necessary. Attendance should be a priority!**
- * Ag students should display RESPECT for all teachers, students, and school staff.**
- * Keep the barn “culture” positive!**
- * Pens should be cleaned daily. DO NOT leave manure in buckets in the barns!**
- * Only immediate family members are allowed in the barns.**
- * There should be no food brought into the barns, no exceptions! This attracts rodents.**
- * Personal items in the barn should be locked away, safely.**

Monthly newsletters will normally be sent out at the end of the month. If you have something you feel needs to be included in February’s newsletter, please email dustin.rogers@southsideisd.org !

