

2025

AG AWARENESS DAY

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION



The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating



TABLE OF CONTENTS

EVENT FLYER	3
SPONSORS	4
WELCOME TO AG DAY	5
AG DAY SCHEDULE	6
ROTATION TOPICS	7
TEKS PRESENTED	8
PAST AG DAY	9
VENUE MAP	10
INTERACTIVE ASSIGNMENTS	11-14

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION



AG AWARENESS DAY

FREE

**4TH GRADE CURRICULUM
ENRICHMENT**

CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION (956) 361-8236



**GROUP 1
NOV. 4
2025**

**GROUP 2
NOV. 5
2025**

**GROUP 3
NOV. 6
2025**

**GROUP 4
NOV. 7
2025**

9:00 AM - 12:20 PM
Rio Grande Valley
Livestock Showgrounds
1000 N Texas Ave,
Mercedes, TX 78570





THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



NORTH ALAMO
WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION





WELCOME TO AG AWARENESS DAY!

Dear Teachers and Students,

We're thrilled to have you join us for Ag Awareness Day, a free curriculum enrichment experience designed especially for 4th grade classrooms! This special day is all about opening young eyes to the incredible world of agriculture – and showing how it's connected to so many things we use and enjoy every day.

Through a series of engaging presentations, students will explore where our food comes from, how clothes are made, and the surprising ways agriculture supports our daily lives. From farm to table and field to fabric, Ag Awareness Day brings the world of agriculture to life in a fun and meaningful way.

Let's grow awareness together!

-AG AWARENESS DAY TEAM

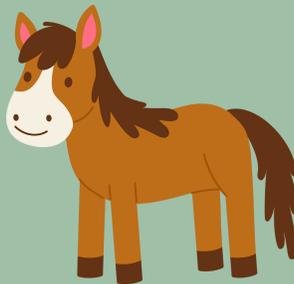
2024 TAKE ON THE AG-VENTURE EXHIBITS!

DAIRY



95% - BARN
OF APPROVAL

HORSE



96% - BARN
OF APPROVAL

COTTON



95% - BARN
OF APPROVAL

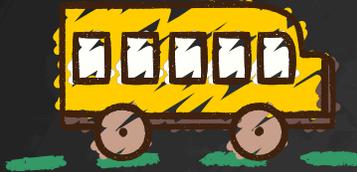
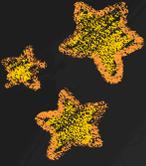
BEEES



93% - BARN
OF APPROVAL



AG DAY SCHEDULE



8:30 AM – 8:45 AM

BUSES ARRIVE AT RGVLS
EVENT CENTER TO BE
CHECKED IN.



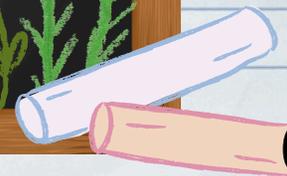
9:00 AM – 12:20 PM

STUDENTS WILL TRANSITION
THROUGH 10 BOOTHS, EACH
SCHOOL WILL BE ASSIGNED A
TRANSITION LEADER WITH
SCHEDULE.



12:20 PM – 12:30 PM

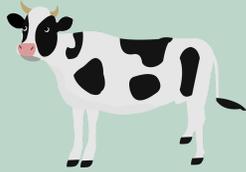
LOAD UP BUSES OR EAT
LUNCH UNTIL 1:30PM!





AG DAY ROTATION

MOBILE DAIRY



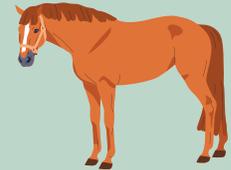
SEE HOW MILK IS MADE AND HOW IT BECOMES CHEESE, YOGURT, AND OTHER DAIRY FOODS WE EAT EVERY DAY.

WATER



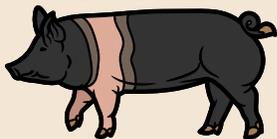
LEARN WHERE OUR WATER COMES FROM, HOW IT HELPS GROW OUR FOOD, AND WHY SAVING IT MATTERS.

EQUINE (HORSES)



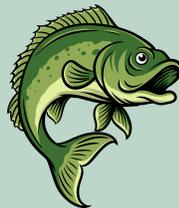
DISCOVER HOW HORSES CONTRIBUTE TO AGRICULTURE, TRANSPORTATION, AND EVERYDAY LIFE BEYOND JUST RIDING AND RECREATION.

SWINE



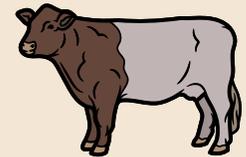
SEE HOW PIGS ARE RAISED AND HOW THEY PROVIDE FOOD AND EVERYDAY PRODUCTS LIKE CRAYONS AND FOOTBALLS.

WILDLIFE



DISCOVER HOW LIVESTOCK AND WILD ANIMALS CAN SHARE THE LAND AND WHY THAT'S IMPORTANT.

BEEF



FIND OUT HOW CATTLE ARE RAISED AND HOW THEY PROVIDE BEEF FOR MEALS AND BY-PRODUCTS WE USE DAILY.

COTTON



FIND OUT HOW COTTON GROWS AND TURNS INTO THE CLOTHES AND FABRICS WE USE EVERY DAY.

CITRUS



LEARN HOW ORANGES AND OTHER FRUITS ARE GROWN AND END UP IN JUICES, SNACKS, AND MEALS.

NUTRITION



FOLLOW FOOD FROM THE FARM TO YOUR PLATE AND LEARN WHY HEALTHY CHOICES HELP YOU FEEL YOUR BEST.



Science TEKS Connections

Food & Energy

- **TEKS 4.5A–C: Physical properties of matter, food as energy**
 - **Stations: Nutrition, Dairy**

Ecosystems & Environment

- **TEKS 4.9A–C: Food webs, energy transfer, environmental impact**
- **TEKS 4.11A–C: Resources, conservation, and human interaction**
 - **Stations: Wildlife, Beef, Dairy, Cotton**

Life Science

- **TEKS 4.10A–B: Life cycles & inherited traits**
 - **Stations: Swine, Beef, Equine**

Social Studies TEKS Connections

Texas Agriculture & Industry

- **TEKS 4.6A–B: Agricultural industries in Texas**
 - **Stations: Cotton, Beef, Dairy**

Agricultural Importance

- **TEKS 4.12A: Why agriculture matters**
 - **Stations: All stations**

Economics of Agriculture

- **TEKS 4.13A–C: Production, consumption, pricing**
 - **Stations: Nutrition, Beef, Dairy**

Tech & Career TEKS

Agricultural Innovation

- **TEKS 4.18B: How science & technology are used in agriculture**
 - **Stations: Cotton, Dairy, Equine**

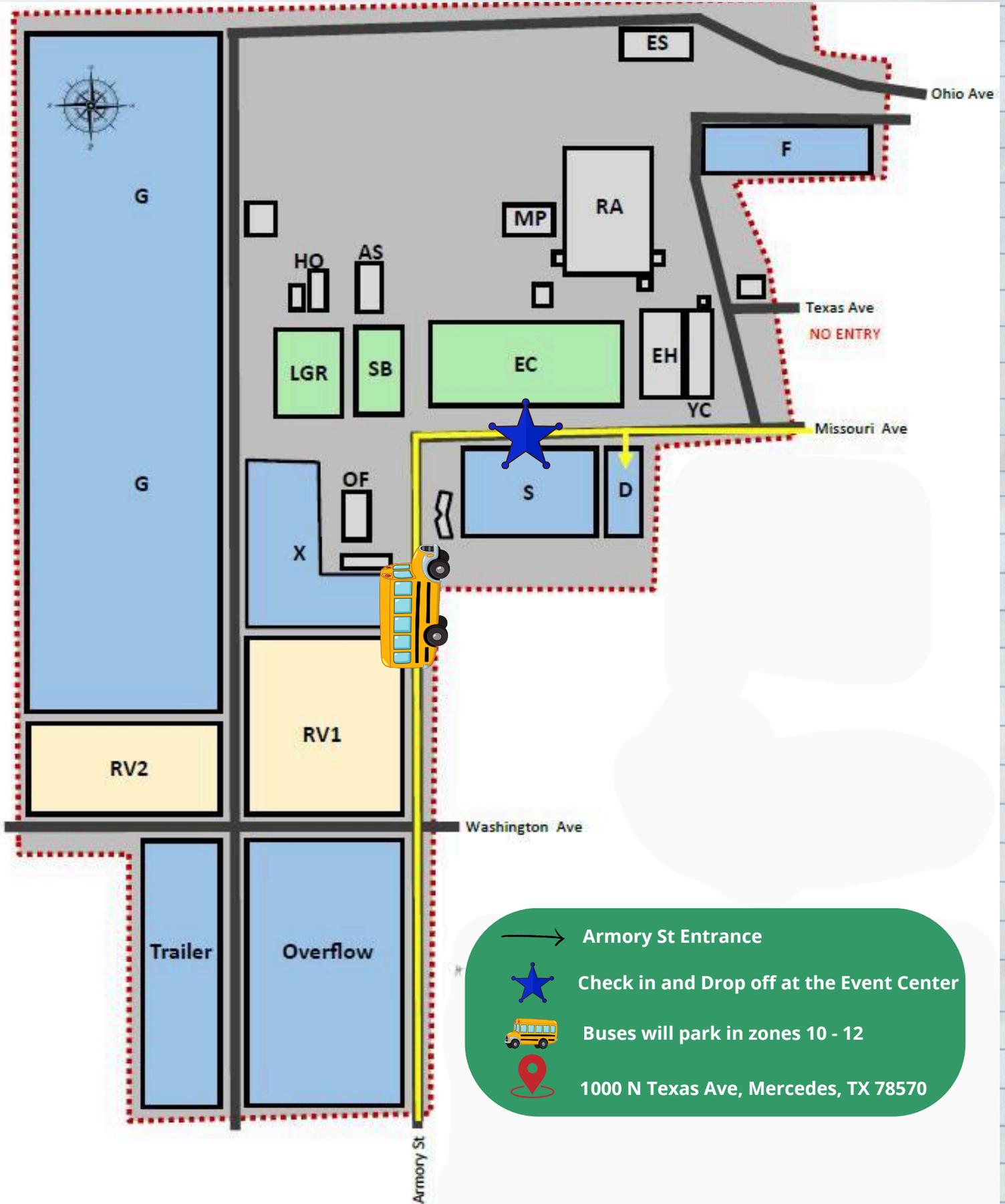
Exploring Ag Careers

- **TEKS 4.19B: Careers in agriculture and food systems**
 - **Stations: All stations**

FROM THE BARN TO THE BLACKBOARD – 2024 ATTENDEES GAVE IT A FULL STAMP OF APPROVAL!



VENUE MAP

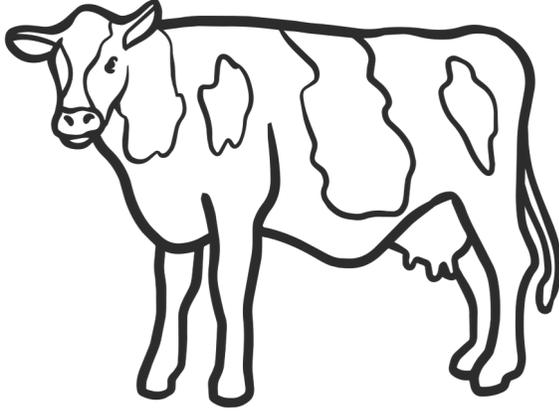


- Armory St Entrance
- ★ Check in and Drop off at the Event Center
- 🚌 Buses will park in zones 10 - 12
- 📍 1000 N Texas Ave, Mercedes, TX 78570

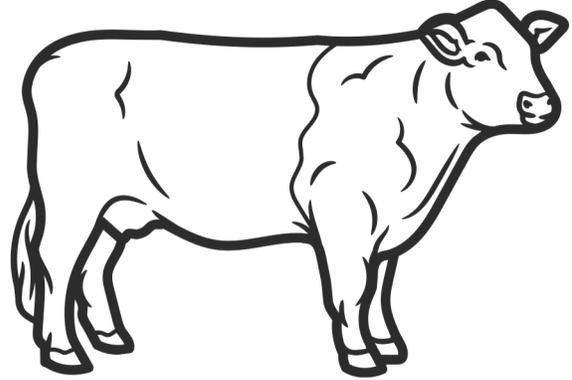


RGV Ag Awareness Day

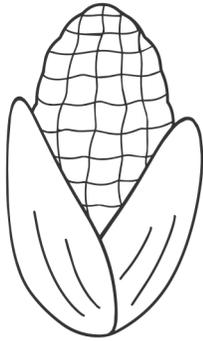
Dairy Cow



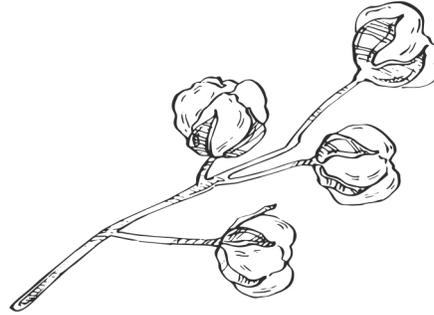
Beef Cow



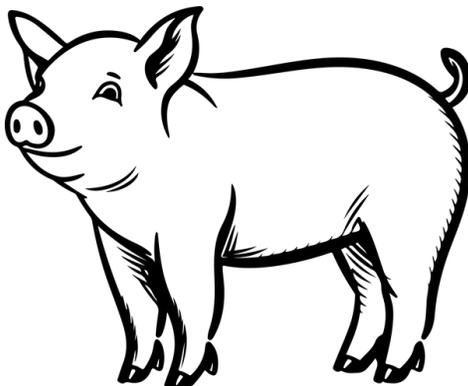
Corn



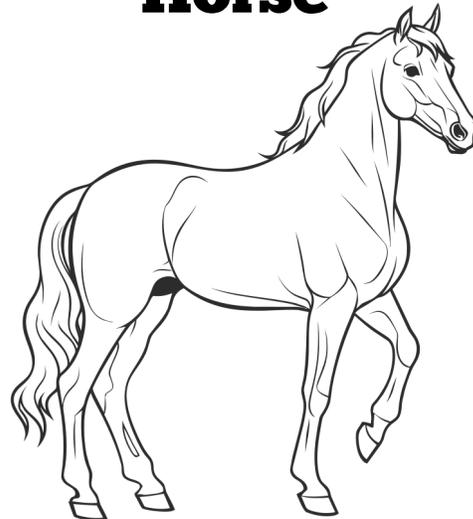
Cotton



Pig

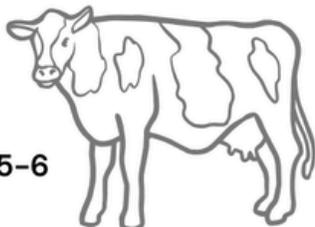


Horse



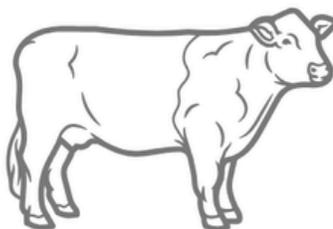


Dairy Cow



- Dairy cows produce up to 5–6 gallons of milk per day
- Cows have excellent vision and keen sense of smell
- There are six main breeds of dairy cows: Holstein, Jersey, Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, and Milking Shorthorn.

Beef Cow



- Cows are ruminant animals with 4 compartments!
- We use many products that come from cows like: leather, shampoo, candy, and makeup!
- Texas is ranked #1 in producing the most Beef Cows in the USA!

Corn



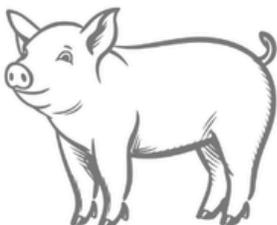
- Corn is a fruit, vegetable, and grain!
- Corn comes in many colors like: yellow, red, purple, black, brown, and pink!
- A cob of corn is the flower and the kernels are all of its seeds.

Cotton



- Cotton was the first plant to be grown on the moon!
- There are 50 different natural species of cotton.
- Cotton is grown on every continent except Antarctica.

Pig



- Pigs don't sweat!
- They can make 20 different sounds.
- Female pigs are called Gilts, and Males are called Barrows.

Horse



- A female horse is called a Mare, and a Male is called a Stallion!
- Horses can sleep standing and laying down.
- They communicate through noises and body language!



WORD SEARCH

S S M L W X V E Q F D Z N Q C B Q F U I
 B N Q I Q N U Z B Z A N E L R J U T O R
 E F T U L E V Y G G R F L Z B Y H P M
 A C G N Y K Z Y V U M Z M Y B F F Q P O
 S L K X L J G X T E B B Y E S Y W H L P
 P I Y E A H O R S E G Y Z U R G C Q O F
 X S Q X J Z V R S T A E U G L G J U S J
 Y T R A C T O R G I E K T U L S R E D G
 P R C V I K I F U A Z I N A T V D A M P
 R R O T W C J A T G N X M T B V I D I O
 W B R N H I K K G V N I V C D L L N R N
 D M N E E R J G Q R Z C C E I F E R W J
 U D B A A K A N U Z I W H A N B E E F T
 W O B W T D C O W J L C Z X X T R P I I
 L V H L X N Z K F C D E U X C L B G E I
 W L W R Z L V X I R T A D L K O U X X A
 W Q P A F Q U R W J U S I K T E T V S Q
 P P G H H P Y I M U C I P R U U M T V U
 T W Z J V S S U K M B P T X Y D R J O S
 N Q V C T I A G I E O L O T Y R E E S N

Agriculture

Vegetable

Organic

Milk

Tractor

Cotton

Farmer

Cow

Dairy

Horse

Fruit

Wheat

Grain

Corn

Beef



MATCHING

- A. I raise and care for cows that produce milk. _____
- B. I help keep animals healthy and give them medicine when they are sick. _____
- C. I grow and care for flowers and plants for decoration or special events. _____
- D. I raise animals like chickens and turkeys for eggs and meat. _____
- E. I build machines and tools to help farms work better. _____
- F. I take care of bees and harvest honey from hives. _____
- G. I grow and manage crops and care for the soil. _____
- H. I raise animals like cattle and sheep for meat and other products. _____
- I. I test and study soil to help farmers grow better crops. _____
- J. I make sure food is safe, healthy, and tastes good. _____

Career Titles

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Rancher | 6. Dairy Farmer |
| 2. Veterinarian | 7. Agricultural Engineer |
| 3. Food Scientist | 8. Florist |
| 4. Agronomist | 9. Poultry Farmer |
| 5. Beekeeper | 10. Soil Scientist |



87th Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show & Rodeo
March 12-22, 2026

September 5, 2025

Dear School Superintendents & Special Education Directors:

The Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show Board of Directors, Executive Director & General Manager, and Special Kids Rodeo Committee proudly announces its "Special Kids Rodeo Days" special event for the upcoming 2026 Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show & Rodeo (RGVLS). The "Special Kids Rodeo Days" is designed with for students with special needs in mind. The intent is to tailor the experience to these special students that have not had the opportunity to experience the Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show due to reservations or concerns about the implications of a large event given their special circumstances.

In March 2018, a pilot program was introduced at RGVLS with a small number of school districts representing both large and small sized districts. As a result of that first successful effort, RGVLS has developed a specific planning committee for the "Special Kids Rodeo Days" and they are continuing to develop and improve on this event annually. RGVLS and the Committee recognize that attending this unique event requires considerable planning and preparation on behalf of school districts and educators to ensure these special need students have an enjoyable experience.

Our goal is to extend this opportunity to the special needs populations with Individualized Education Plans (IEP) which include annual goals and objectives for social skills and community-based learning opportunities. This program focuses primarily on students in self-contained, instructional settings or students identified for the STAAR Alternative II state assessment. Additionally, this program is being offered to school districts across south Texas (in the Region Once ESC counties) as a priority. Districts that have students that meet these special and unique parameters are encouraged to discuss this within your academic and administrative networks to consider making the "Special Kids Rodeo Days" a must-attend for your students.

Hosting this event requires considerable planning as it has grown exponentially since 2018. We hosted over 4,000 students during this event in 2025. Our greatest challenge is planning/coordinating your arrival to ensure your students have a great experience while assuring they can have a safe and welcoming one at RGVLS. In order for any campus/district to attend, RGVLS is asking for each Superintendent of Schools and their Special Education Directors to assist us in planning for your participation and arrival. The event will be hosted as follows:

- Thursday, March 12, 2026: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
- Friday, March 13, 2026: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

If you and your students prefer to stay longer, you are welcome to do so. We are asking the school district/campus administrator responsible for the group to complete our "Special Kids Rodeo Pre-Preregistration Form" by scanning the QR code provided. You can complete it as a District or as a Campus, but we do require District information to ensure we communicate effectively with the appropriate administrators to ensure we are prepared for your students' visit. We will need to know the

number of students and staff attending. Please know that transportation and meals will be the responsibility of the attending District/Campus.

Also, in order to ensure the quality of your students' experience, this opportunity is only being extended to school groups. While anyone and everyone is encouraged and welcomed to attend RGVLS, the RGVLS Special Kids Rodeo program is specially designed for YOUR students and staff. Parents are welcome to attend this event, however, but must pay standard parking and admission fees.

RGVLS and the Committee are committed to improving the quality of experience your students have with us and will continue to evaluate and improve this special event with the assistance of participating school districts and the committee members. We thank you in advance for considering attending our event with your students. Very few livestock shows around the state are offering this type of program and we are very proud to be providing these students with such an important and memorable experience. We sincerely value your feedback, your professional judgment, and thoughts on making this event even better for March 2026 and beyond. **Please respond no later than February 2, 2026** to be included in this year's invitation to the **2026 Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show & Rodeo's Special Kids Rodeo** event.

2026 Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show & Rodeo
Special Kids Rodeo
March 12-13, 2026



District/Campus Pre-Registration Form
Response requested by Feb 2, 2026



Form: <http://tinyurl.com/rgvlsskr>

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Andrew Maldonado, RGVLS Events Coordinator, at 956-565-2456.

On behalf of the Special Kids Rodeo Planning Committee and the Board of Directors, ***come join us*** at our 87th Annual Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show & Rodeo. ***It's Rodeo Time!***

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Luis H. Saldaña.

Luis H. Saldaña
Executive Director & General Manager

CHECK US OUT ON TV!



Dear Teachers,

Your commitment to helping students explore where their food and everyday products come from makes a lasting impact. Thank you for making agriculture part of their learning journey.



FOLLOW US !



RGV Ag Awareness Day | Mercedes TX

RGV Ag Awareness Day, Mercedes. 13 likes. RGV Ag Awareness Day is a premier agriculture awareness...

[facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)

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