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## Fair Tag Ins Continue In June

Colorado County Fair tag-ins for individuals wishing to exhibit an animal in the 2009 livestock show will continue in June.

Exhibitors may order, tag-in or validate and show animals in two departments, but will be allowed to sale only one animal.

Exhibitors are encouraged to contact the show chairperson for more information before buying their animals.

The entry deadline for all livestock species will be Friday, Aug. 28.

Livestock entries will check in on Thursday, Sept. 10, and show on Friday, Sept. 11.

**Fryer Rabbits**

Bunnies may be produced from does that the exhibitor owns or purchased through any other source.

Exhibitors must purchase a minimum of 5 bunnies.

If exhibitor wishes to buy more than 5, order must be in quantity of 5.

There is a \$5 validation fee per pen of bunnies.

Exhibitors are limited to 2 pens.

Bunnies will be validated Aug. 9, at the Colorado County Ag Complex Fairgrounds from 8 to 10 a.m.

Contact Lucy Markwardt, chairperson, at 732-3939 for more information.

**Broilers**

Chicks must be ordered through the Colorado County Extension office on or before Friday, June 5.

Each exhibitor must purchase a minimum of 25 birds and chicks will cost \$1.18 each.

Chicks will be picked up at M-G, Inc. in Weimar on July 30.

Contact Lee Hasse, chairman, at (979) 263-4254 for more information.

**Market Hogs**

Must be tagged, tattooed and weighed on Saturday, June 6 from 7 to 9 a.m. at the Colorado County Ag Complex Fairgrounds.

A \$5 per hog tag-in fee will be collected at tag-in.

Hogs must weigh 230-270 pounds (with a 5 lb. tolerance) at official weigh in on Thursday, Sept. 10.

Contact Kenny Koehl (732-2057) or Rusty Theut (732-5507), chairpersons, for more information.

**Market Lambs**

Must be tagged, tattooed and weighed on Saturday, June 6 from 8 to 10 a.m. at the Colorado County Ag Complex Fairgrounds.

A \$5 per lamb tag-in fee will be collected at tag-in.

Wether or ewe lambs may be shown.

Lambs must be carrying temporary incisors (milk teeth) with no permanent incisors in view at the official weigh in on Thursday, Sept. 10.

Contact Gerald Koehl, chairperson, at 732-8367 for more information.

**Market Goats**

Must be tagged, tattooed and weighed on Saturday, June 6, from 8 to 10 a.m. at the Colorado County

**Ag Complex Fairgrounds.**

A \$5 per goat tag-in fee will be collected at tag-in.

Goats must be wethered prior to tag-in or at least have a band in place.

Female goats are eligible to be entered.

Goats must weigh no less than 60 pounds and no more than 120 pounds (with a 3 pound tolerance) at show time.

Goats must be dehorned at tag-in.

For more information contact Denice Janow at (979) 234-2418.

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## Attracting Butterflies To The Garden

By Texas Parks & Wildlife

When wanting to attract butterflies to your garden you should think of it as shopping for real estate.

It's about what you want and location, location, location.

Butterflies cannot regulate their body temperature, so they

need to rely on the sun.

This is why you see butterflies moving their wings while resting on plants.

They are attempting to get just the right amount of heat.

Butterflies and moths are also host-specific insects.

Many gardeners can tell what

caterpillar is doing the damage by the plant that is being eaten. One should also remember to have a lot of butterflies of a specific type; you might need to plant a variety of plants in the same family, such as milkweeds.

Butterflies like certain plants to change from the caterpillar stage to the butterfly stage.

Plants for the caterpillar stage of a butterfly's development are usually kept in less conspicuous locations, so the garden looks neat.

When considering host plants or those plants that caterpillars prefer, some examples are: milkweed for monarch butterflies, passion vines for fritillaries, hackberry for Hackberry Emperor Butterflies and there are others.

When setting up the butterfly garden, it is more effective to spread islands of color or clusters of nectar plants throughout the garden will usually be more effective than one large patch of pollinating plants.

Butterflies are pollinators, meaning that they are one of the animals that assist in plant reproduction by carrying pollen from plant to plant.

Most butterfly plants will be colorful, to attract the butterfly, and oriented upward making a platform for the butterfly to land and walk on.

The best of these generally have big 'heads' of flowers, so that the butterfly may spend several minutes visiting from flower to flower without flying around.

Some good nectar plants for butterflies include: Purple Coneflower, mistflowers, Gayfeather, Texas Kidneywood, horsemint, phlox, lantana's and Turk's Cap to name a few.

Butterflies do need water but will not use your common birdbaths.

You can use a simple platter that will allow just a small amount of water to collect inside of it and allow the small butterfly to get its fill.

Also allowing small puddling areas in your landscape will also work.

While many stores carry hummingbird and butterfly feeders, these should only be used as supplemental feeding areas in your garden.

Feeders should be cleaned and sugar water solution should be changed once a week.

To make your own nectar solution at home, you just need to mix 1/4-cup of sugar into one cup of water.

Mix well and refrigerate any unused portion for up to one week.

It is not necessary to add red food coloring to the solution.

When all items of the habitat are included in your landscape, from host plant to nectar plants, it is just a matter of time before you will be enjoying the great outdoors that much more.

If you would like to contact your local biologist, see our website at: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/wildlifebiologist>.



Front row left to right, Ricky Rodriguez and Roman Herek. Back row left to right, Lee Fields, Jaayla Spates.

## Special Olympics Competes In Austin

The Rice Raider Special Olympics track team journeyed to Connally High School in north Austin to compete in Area 13's meet recently. The Rice Team joined 32 teams in this year's two-day competition.

The meet results are as follows Roman Herek came home with three gold medals – one each in the 25-meter walk, the 25-meter wheelchair race and the softball throw.

Ricky Rodriguez came home with two gold medals – one in the 25-meter walk and one in the 100-meter wheelchair race and a fourth place ribbon in the softball throw.

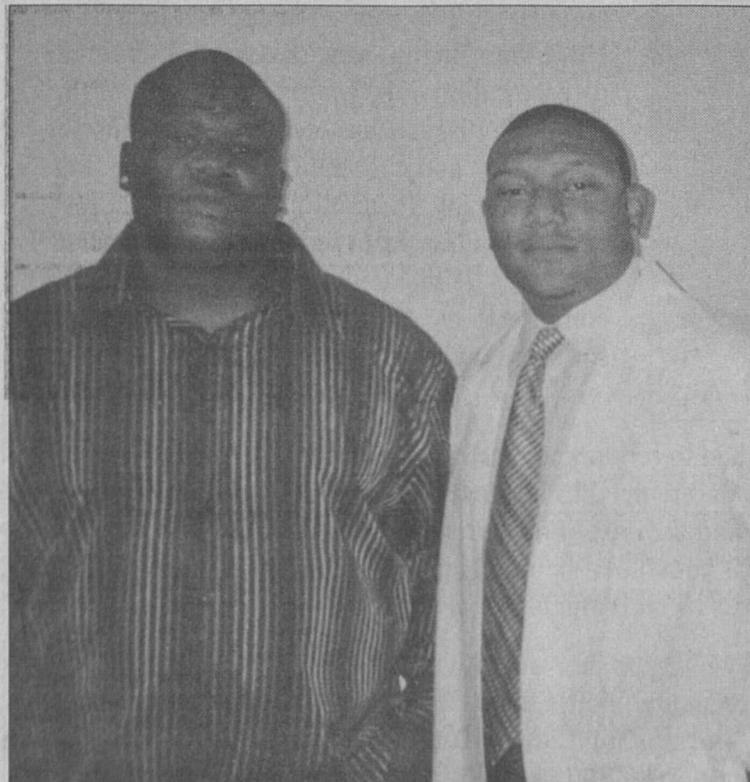
Jaayla Spates claimed two bronze medals in both of her

events – the softball throw and the 50-meter dash while teammate, Lee Fields, captured two silver medals in his events – the 50-meter dash and the shot put.

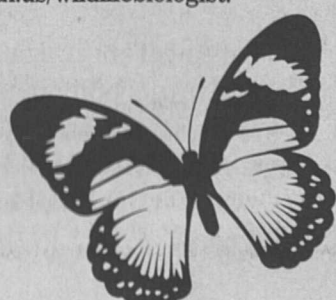
With the huge number of athletes competing this year, Coaches Fruge' and Pustejovsky were pleased to see their athletes finish very strong!

The Coaches would like to send a big thank you to the following parents for their attendance and support during this competition: Becky Almanza, Angie Herek, Alana Johnson, Guadalupe and Kathy

Rodriguez. Also, a big thanks to one of our new volunteers, Aaliyah Almanza, and to one of our seasoned assistant coaches, Molly Valdez.



Michael J. Cooper Sr., pictured with son Michael J. Cooper, Jr. receiving his first white coat on his way to receiving his doctor of chiropractor degree. Michael is a 2003 graduate of Rice Consolidated, and a 2008 graduate from Stephen F. Austin University.



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