



Meadowlark District 4-H News

www.meadowlark.ksu.edu

Meadowlark Extension District

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Dear New 4-H Families,

Congratulations on completing your first year in 4-H! I hope you now understand why we call 4-H a family affair. 4-H is an opportunity for your family to grow and work together to build strong youth that will become leaders of tomorrow.

Your first 4-H year was probably a bit confusing at times and you may have missed a deadline or opportunity you wanted to take part in, but if you did, don't feel like you failed or missed out. Remember that it takes approximately three years to fully understand the 4-H program. This year was a learning experience for the entire family.

You are currently reading the last new family newsletter you will receive, but if you ever want to look at them for reference they will be posted online at the District website, www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/4-h/new_to_4H.html. Remember to read the monthly newsletter to stay informed about the Meadowlark District 4-H program. The newsletter is meant to help you continue to succeed, as a family, in the 4-H program. This is our main line of monthly communication from our offices to you!

The new 4-H year will begin in October and new families will be joining your club. Don't forget how it felt to be new and how others helped you during your first year. Your family knows that being new is scary so please help those that are new so they can have a successful first year in 4-H.

Remember to keep asking questions. Even though you are no longer brand new you will still have questions and need information. Don't be afraid to ask your questions until you understand. The question you ask may help someone else with his or her problem.

Ross Mosteller – District Agent, 4-H and Youth

Achievement Event

4-H Achievement Events will be occurring very soon. The 4-H Achievement Event is held after the end of the 4-H year to honor youth for their hard work in the prior 4-H year. At the Achievement Event local awards are given including achievement pins, project awards, scholarships, and volunteer recognition. The awards at the Achievement Event are based upon the review of record books and KAP's. These are different than awards given at events throughout the year, as they look at the completion of written summary of 4-H work done. All 4-H families are invited to attend the local achievement event, to help celebrate the success each has had! Make sure you read the newsletter to receive all the details so you don't miss it.

ALL
ACHIEVEMENT
IS BASED FIRST ON THE
STRENGTH
OF OUR
WILL



4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship, and life skills



4-H Enrollment – 4HOnline

At one of the first 4-H meetings of the year, the Club leader will hand out enrollment packets or share enrollment information. This is important to turn into your club leader and Extension Office to keep track of the contact information; projects and activities youth are interested in taking part in. Enrollment in 4-H asks for important details about you, but is only as useful and accurate as the information you provide.

All 4-H members are asked to complete 4-H enrollment online via the Kansas 4HOnline enrollment system. More details on this process will be highlighted in the enrollment packets and upcoming 4-H newsletters. Enrollment will not be complete until entered online, by the 4-H member/family, via the Kansas 4HOnline site **AFTER** October 1st. We will be using a paper contact sheet to gather some contact information.

If your family has multiple phone numbers, email addresses, or mailing addresses please list those that are most often checked or used by the youth and parents. The office uses a variety of ways to contact youth so if a phone number or email is not used often, please do not list it on the Contact Card or in 4HOnline account.

Club leaders and Extension staff will use the projects and activities youth sign up for as a way to inform your 4-H family of resources, events, etc... youth are specifically interested in. Members will be directed toward or given record materials and information on specific project workshops or deadlines based on the projects they signed up for. If you forget to sign up for a certain project you may not be informed of a critical dates or changes.

Enrollment is the start of your 4-H year and shares the basic information on your 4-H family. This information helps us, help you, to be an informed 4-H family. All returning 4-H members **MUST** have your 4HOnline enrollment completed by **November 1st**. We need your family's contact so you can start receiving the monthly newsletter full of 4-H information.

<https://ks.4honline.com>



4-H Participation Forms – Part of Enrollment

A big piece of annual 4-H enrollment is completion of a Kansas 4-H Participation form. The completion of this form and the information contained within is just as important as enrollment information itself. This form is electronically completed via the 4HOnline enrollment system.

You may be asking yourself why does the Extension office or club leader need my children's medical information? Or you may be reluctant to fill a form out completely because of confidentiality or you don't remember the last time your child got a tetanus shot. The 4-H Participation Form is another important document the Extension Office and your Club leader needs to give your child a fun, but safe experience.

When your participation form is completed in the 4HOnline account, the information is kept completely confidential. Club Leaders may look at the information to find out food allergies when planning snacks or so they are informed if your child has health concerns so they can be prepared in case of an emergency.

The information is used in the same way at the Extension Office. If your child attends any event that is put on by the State or the Meadowlark District we use the Participation Forms to plan according to your child's medical needs.

The form needs to be filled out completely. We only use the information on the form in case of an emergency. Policy numbers, medical history, and tetanus shots will not be shared with anyone, but all need to be completed fully, otherwise you will get phone calls from the Extension Office until you give us the necessary information. Enrollment will not be complete without this information.

Please know your child's safety is number one in our book. The 4-H Participation form is one way we keep your child safe and in case an accident does happen we can get them the best care possible.



Give them confidence. Teach them leadership. Watch them thrive.

WHO RUNS THE 4-H CLUB MEETING?

Your 4-H club has probably been meeting once a month. Be sure to attend club meetings so you know what is going on in your 4-H club. You will also learn what's happening in 4-H at the local, District and state levels. There are lots of things to do in 4-H, but you have to attend meetings to learn what is happening. Parents, your attendance at these meetings is as equally important as the 4-H member!

At least one adult club leader attends meetings to answer questions and make sure things go smoothly. This Community Club Leader(s) is the first place to turn when you have 4-H questions. Really, each club is run by its members, by electing club officers. Here are some things that each officer does:

President: The president leads the club meetings. Usually, the president has been in 4-H for quite a few years. An effective president works with the officer team and club leader to run an efficient meeting.

Vice President: This person helps the president. He or she takes over when the president cannot be there. Many clubs also make the Vice President in charge of the program portion of the meeting.

Secretary: This person writes a report of everything that happens at a meeting. This report is called the minutes. The secretary reads the minutes at the next meeting to remind members what happened the last time they met. Minutes are the historical record of the club's activities and decisions.

Treasurer: This person keeps track of the club's money. He or she takes money to the bank, writes checks, and gives a report at club meetings. They are responsible for an annual financial audit report.

Reporter: This person writes short news articles and sends them to the local newspaper. That way, everyone in the community knows what the 4-H club is doing.

Some clubs have other officers, too. Sometimes, there is a member in charge of games after the meeting. There may also be a historian. The historian keeps a scrapbook of the club's history. Clubs also need help planning special events and activities. You should consider and probably would enjoy being on one of these committees.

Planning Your Second Year of 4-H

The first year of 4-H is a time to explore and experience. 4-H offers a lot of projects and activities. You can't do them all in one year. That's why 4-H is for kids from 7 to 18 years old. There is something new for you to do each year that you are a 4-H member. Early this fall, your 4-H club will be having an organizational meeting. This is a time for you to think ahead to your second year of 4-H.

The first thing to think about is: What projects will I take? Think about the projects that you took this year. Did you like them? You may want to take them again. You can take the same project and try some new activities. Or you can move on to another level. Maybe you would like to try some new projects. Your leader will have the new 4-H Project Selection Guide very soon. You can look through all the projects again. Be sure to look close. There might even be a few new projects listed. Sign up for the project load you can handle!!!

The next thing to think about is: What will I do in my 4-H club? Would you like to be on any club committees? What about being a club officer? Recreation chair, reporter, or song leader are good offices to start with. You'll have some leadership responsibility, but not too much. Also, start thinking about presentations and demonstrations that you could give this year. Hopefully, you have the first one under your belt, and they get easier the second time. Public speaking is a valuable life skill!

Now ask yourself: Would I like to get involved beyond the club level? The District 4-H program offers lots of different activities during the year. You can try workshops to learn more about your projects. You can take part in public speaking contests. You can learn more about judging by being on a livestock, horse, horticulture, photography, or consumer science judging team. Try an overnight experience with 4-H camp. The possibilities are endless. If you don't know what's out there, please ask your leader or at the Extension office.

Get the most out of 4-H by trying new things and having fun! If you want to know more about projects, events, or activities, ask your leader, a member of your club, or call your local Extension office. Check out the Kansas 4-H Website site at www.Kansas4-H.org Have a great second year!



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Address Service Requested



- President
- Treasurer
- Vice-President
- Reporter
- Secretary
- Recreation Leader

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