



4-H UPDATES



Official Newsletter of Meadowlark Extension District 4-H

4-H Club Day

4-H Club Day activities are an important phase of local 4-H programming and should be something that every 4-H member tries. 4-H Day provides additional opportunities for 4-H members to further develop their skills, self-confidence, and personal developments as they learn and have fun with others in their club, county or district. 4-H Club Day objectives include the following:

- 1. To demonstrate the value of the 4-H Youth Development program through public presentation and evaluation of 4-H'ers showcasing:
 - a. Public Presentations
 - b. Parliamentary Procedures
 - c. Performing Arts
- 2. Give 4-H'ers an opportunity to learn skills and gain confidence in their abilities to exercise parliamentary procedures, speak effectively and give creative performances.
- 3. To provide opportunity for fellowship and wider acquaintance among 4-H'ers.
- 4. To exchange information regarding 4-H project work to others.
- 5. To present a favorable image to the public and to promote 4-H. Participation in 4-H Club Day is generally assumed to be open to current actively enrolled 4-H members (State Program fee paid) of the Meadowlark Extension District. Participation in individual events is open ONLY to actively enrolled 4-H members. Group activities must be comprised of at least 75% of active 4-H members. Group projects may have a mixture of youth in 4-H clubs.

Details and sign-up process are found in the local office pages and/or have been communicated in other ways, so please review and let us know what questions or concerns you have. General Club Day resources can be found at: https:// www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/docs/4h/resources/4H-Club-Day-Guide-Book.pdf.

- Jackson Co.: February 22 at Jackson Heights High School
- Jefferson Co.: March 1 at Jefferson West High School
- Nemaha Co.: March 1 at Wetmore School

Rock Springs 4-H Camp

Registration is open now! Visit https://rockspringsranch.org/summercamps/sessions-rates to learn more about 4-H camps.

February 2025

This Issue:

- "Local Food Fellow" Position
- K-State Junior Swine/Meat Goat Day
- State 4-H Scholarships
- **Spring Shows & Judging Contest**
- Youth for the Quality Care of Animals

PAGE 3

- Beef Weigh-Ins
- **Premium Sale Requirements**
- **Open Spring Poultry Show**
- **Open Spring Beef Show**
- **State Fair Animal Exhibition**
- Volunteers
- Citizenship & Leadership

PAGE 4

- **Project Spotlight**
- **New Families**
- 911 Address Signs
- Why 4-H???

PAGE 5

Jackson County News

PAGE 6

Jefferson County News

PAGE 7

Nemaha County News

Regional Club Day

If you receive a Top Purple at County Club Day, you will then have the opportunity to attend Regional 4-H Day at Atchison Elementary School on March 22. If you plan to attend Regionals, please let your local extension office know by Monday, March 3.

"Local Food Fellow" Position

This spring, the Meadowlark District will hire a Local Food Fellow to work on our project: *Food Market Mapping in the Meadowlark District*. The project will create a directory of farmers markets, vendors, and local producers within the District.

We hope this directory will serve multiple purposes. New markets can struggle to get enough vendors, and new vendors may similarly struggle to find enough markets to sell at. Ideally, this directory can help bridge these gaps. Secondly, KSRE offers training and resources for vendors and market managers. However, it can be hard to get information to the right people. By connecting with vendors, producers and market managers, we can more easily inform stakeholders of upcoming opportunities.

The position pays \$17.50 an hour for a total of 320 hours of work. The position runs from mid March to June with an average of 20 hours per week. High school juniors and seniors are eligible to apply. If you are interested, go to https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/about/job_opportunities.html or scan the QR code to see the job posting.

If you are involved in a farmers market in any capacity, we would be interested in connecting with you. You can reach out to us by emailing Laura at lauraphillips@ksu.edu.

State 4-H Scholarships

REMINDER all current and past 4-H members who are currently a high school senior or college-age alumni are eligible to apply for the 2025 Kansas 4-H scholarships. The applications are due before **March 1**. Use the website below for all information on how to submit your applications. https://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/awards-and-recognition/scholarships.html.

Spring Shows & Judging Contest

Information about upcoming shows & contest can be found online at https://www.asi.k-state.edu/extension/youth-programs/events/spring-shows/springshows.html.

K-State Junior Swine & Meat Goat Producer Days

The K-State junior producer days are hosted to provide a one-day event with educational material and hands-on experiences for youth, parents, leaders, extension agents and ag teachers. Various speakers share information on topics such as selection, nutrition, showmanship, fitting, reproduction, feeding, and disease control. Talks, demonstrations, hands-on activities, and door prizes are present at all events.

- **Swine Producer Day** is scheduled for Saturday, **March 1**, in the Stanley Stout Center, Manhattan. The deadline to register is **February 5**.
- **Meat Goat Producer Day** is scheduled for Saturday, **March 22**, in the Stanley Stout Center, Manhattan. Dead-line to register is **February 26**.

The cost for each of the producer days is \$20 per person by the deadline date. All attendees, including both youth and adults, must register. Only those who register by the appropriate deadline will receive a t-shirt. There is a late registration fee of \$25/person. Registration is open now and may be completed through this link: http://bit.ly/ksuasiregister. Participation for both days is limited to the first 400 registrants.

***There will be an optional tour of the KSU Sheep & Meat Goat Center on the Friday night prior to Junior Meat Goat Producer Day, as well as after the program concludes on Saturday.

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA)

It is once again required that YQCA certification must be completed for the Premium Sale Requirements. You are more than welcome to attend ANY in-person class whether it is hosted by our District or a neighboring one! We just need assurance by way of a .pdf or screenshot of your certificate. Online class certifications are also accepted.

Registration is now open for web-based (\$12) and instructor led (\$3) in-person training events at: https://yqcaprogram.org. If you need assistance, you can go to this help guide, https://yqcaprogram.org/local/ resources for youth parents.php. If you have any questions regarding the process, feel free to visit YQCA's help desk on their website or email them at https://yqcaprogram.org/local/help-desk.php or you can email Ross Mosteller at mmostell@ksu.edu with any questions. If you have issues registering or anything related to the online software, email help@yqcaprogram.org or use the "chat" feature on the website.

The following date and location is the final in-person class hosted by Ross:

February 2, 3:00 PM—Northeast Kansas Heritage Complex, Holton

Beef Weigh-Ins

Beef weigh-ins will be happening as normal! The cost for tags will be **\$4.00** per tag with payment due at weigh-in. If the day or time does not work to attend your county's weigh-in, we allow you to weigh-in at one of the other counties that are in the Meadowlark District. Anyone attending Jefferson County weigh-in, your cattle must be halter broke. This year's beef weigh-ins will be at the following dates, locations and times:

- Seneca—February 28: Seneca Veterinary Clinic, 3:30-5:30 PM
- Holton—March 2: Holton Livestock Exchange, 2:00-4:00 PM
- Valley Falls—March 8: Valley Falls Fair Grounds, 10:00 AM to Noon; snow date is March 22

Premium Sale Requirements

Any 4-H member wishing to participate in premium auctions at county fair, need to annually complete the premium sale requirement form. The process encourages year-round 4-H engagement and involvement. FFA members (in counties where eligible for fairs) have a corresponding set of requirements. To review the form go to: https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/docs/4h/fair-forms-for-all-offices/PREMIUM SALE REQUIREMENTS 4-H.pdf. Many of these requirements can be met by engaging with your local club all year and participation in local/area/state events.

Open Spring Poultry Show

The poultry show will be Saturday, **April 5** at the Valley Falls Fair building. Doors open at 7:00 AM and the show begins at 8:00 AM. Set-up for this event will be Friday evening, **April 4**, at 6:00 PM. For more details, contact Katie Rhodelander at HoneyCreekFarms@hotmail.com or call/ text her at 785-231-0413. The entry form will be available on the Oskaloosa 4-H website SOON.

Open Spring Beef Show

This year's Spring beef show is **March 29**, beginning at 10:00 AM at the Valley Falls Fairgrounds. Check-in will be from 7:00–8:30 AM. For more information, contact Toni Reeves at 785-640-8457. Go to the Oskaloosa 4-H website, for the registration form.

State Fair Animal Exhibition

Exhibiting an animal beyond the 4-H division at a local county fair means that ownership and identification must meet the requirements outlined by the K-State Youth Livestock Program, Kansas State Fair, Kansas Junior Livestock Show and all other show governing bodies. The 4-H member is responsible for understanding the deadlines and expectations involved. It is strongly recommended to contact the extension office well in advance of **May 1**, if you are considering showing an animal at the Kansas State Fair, so expectations and processes can be reviewed and met.

Volunteers

If you have knowledge in a project area and an interest in helping others learn and be involved, please let the office and your club leaders know.

Any Club Leaders, Project Leaders and other adult volunteers in direct contact with youth will need to fill out a profile in 4HOnline and complete training. Information about creating or updating a profile in 4HOnline and the required training offered through 4HOnline is available at https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/4-h/volunteers.html. Thank you for helping to make sure Meadowlark District 4-H members have a safe 4-H experience.

Citizenship & Leadership

Citizenship means helping out in your community and serving others without compensation. Leadership involves major responsibilities, including guiding, planning, and carrying out activities to help a group achieve its goals. Wondering what you can do for citizenship and leadership activities in your projects? Check out this guide to community service opportunities that will give you all sorts of ideas: https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/docs/4h/resources/4-H%20Project%20Related%20Community%20Service%20Opportunities.pdf



Project Spotlight



Horse Project

Love horses? Then this project is for you! You will have the opportunity to learn, handle, care for and ride horses.

Members may own or lease a horse, but must manage the horse 75% of the time, whether owned or leased.

Things to Learn/Do in the Horse Project

Horse Project FAQs

Ages 7-9

- Practice safety and proper use of equipment
- Identify horse body parts
- Learn the breeds of horses

Ages 10-13

- Learn about grooming
- Learn how to bridle and saddle a horse
- Learn how to judge and give oral reasons

Ages 14 and Older

- How to detect unsoundness in horses
- Learn to identify and treat equine diseases
- Learn about ethics and competition



2024 Meadowlark District Horse Judging Team. If you would like to join and compete, please contact your local Extension Office. Teams are forming NOW!

Current Events:

Horse Panorama: **February 22-23** at Rock Spring Ranch: Horse Panorama is a compilation of various contests related to the Horse Project. Contests include: quiz bowl, hippology, public speaking presentations, photography and educational posters. Call you Extension Office with questions and to register.

2025 Kansas State 4-H Horse Judging Contest: March 21 in Salina: Last year Meadowlark District rocked this event! The 4-H Horse Judging Contest provides youth an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge of equine-related subject matter, including structure and movement, in a competitive setting. County and District Teams are forming NOW! Practice sessions are beginning. If you would like to join on a team, contact Joann Westbrook at joann.westbrook@gmail.com or contact your Extension Office.

New Families

Don't hesitate to contact a club leader or our office if you have any questions about upcoming events, project records, or any 4-H projects. Stay involved and attend as many events as possible. Please call your local extension office with questions.

911 Address Signs

The primary purpose of 911 reflective signs is to enable emergency services to locate addresses quickly without necessary delay. They are highly visible day or night due to the reflective material on both sides. They are made of 100% US aluminum, contain pre-drilled holes, are fade resistant, and have rounded corners for safety. The markers can either be mounted vertically or horizontally.

Signs are available at your local Extension Office for \$15 each. Proceeds benefit the 4-H program.

Why 4-H ???

(Noting the IMPACT of the 4-H Program in the lives of young people, in their own words.)

"My week as a 4-H Counselor was such a great opportunity! It proved, beyond a doubt, that I want to be a teacher."

Jackson County News

4-H Council Meeting

The next 4-H Council meeting will be **February 13** at 7:00 PM. Please be sure that your club is represented.

County 4-H Day

This year's County 4-H Day will be held **February 22** starting at 9:00 AM at Jackson Heights High School. Be sure to sign up with your club leader and check with your leader to see what your room assignment is and time frame. Times will be assigned through the office and a final schedule will be mailed or emailed to you.

For more information on County 4-H Day, please see the publication on our website at: http://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/docs/4h/resources/4H%20Club%20Day%20Guide%20Book.pdf

Beef Weigh-In

Beef weigh-in will be **March 2** from 2:00-4:00 PM at the Holton Livestock Exchange. Ear tags must be paid for that day and your animals breed will be determined.

Fair Superintendents Needed

If you are interested or know of someone interested in being a Fair Superintendent, please let Cara know. Help is needed in the following areas: Cloverbuds, Animals On Parade, Self-Determined, Wildlife & Rabbits.

Fair Superintendents arrive early THE day of judging. They assist with fair judging and answer any questions that judges and 4-Hers may have, place ribbons on exhibits, help with fair set-up and clean-up, etc.

Swine Tagging—2025

This year we are going to require a centralized swine tagging. Due to the state recommendations, we are no longer able to sell the tags over the counter. Tagging will be held at the Northeast Kansas Heritage Complex on Sunday, **May 4** from 2:00-4:00 PM.

Fair Auction Requirements

In order to participate in the project/livestock auction held at the end of the 2025 fair, 4-H members will be required to attend in-person at least 5 regular monthly meetings of the 4-H club in which they are enrolled between October 1 and June 30. This requirement does not limit fair participation, only participation in the auction. Youth must be YQCA certified and must take part in 4 of the approved activities. If you want to participate in the auction, plan to make sure you meet the requirements .

100 Years of Jackson County Fair

This year marks our 100th Anniversary of the Jackson County Fair. As we look forward to our 100 years of community service and education, we are asking fair patrons for your historical information, pictures, stories, awards and any past related



knowledge that can be included in our upcoming celebration. Please contact the Extension office if you or you know someone who would have something they would like to have in our Centennial Display.

The theme for this year is **"4-H Over The Decades"**. We have assigned each 4-H Club a decade and asking them to decorate their club banner, float or hay bale that decade.

- Denison Builders 2010
- Lucky Stars—1950
- Ontario Busy Bees—1980
- Straight Arrows—1920
- Delia Early Birds—1930
- Mayetta Mustangs—1970
- Pleasant Valley Rustlers—1990
- Hoyt Livewires—1940
- North Jackson Jets—1960
- Soldier Boosters—2000

Important Fair Dates

Pre-Fair Entries due: Friday, June 27

• Horse Show: Saturday, June 28

Dog Show: Wednesday, July 2

Pre-Fair Judging: Tuesday, July 8

Fair: July 14-18

State Fair Animal Exhibition

Exhibiting an animal beyond the 4-H division at a local county fair means that ownership and identification must meet the requirements outlined by the K-State Youth Livestock Program, Kansas State Fair, Kansas Junior Livestock Show, and all other show governing bodies. The 4-H member is responsible for understanding the deadlines and expectations involved. If you are considering showing an animal at the Kansas State Fair, it is strongly recommended that you contact the Meadowlark District office well in advance of **May 1** so expectations and processes can be reviewed and met.

Jefferson County News

Ambassador Game Day

On Sunday, **February 2** from 5:00–7:00 PM, the Ambassadors will host a game session and Valentine's Day service project at the Valley Falls Fair building. There will be fun, fellowship, games, laughter, and BINGO. This event is open to all 4-Hers and is a great opportunity for fun and involvement. You may RSVP to the office or just show up!

County Horse Project Meeting

There will be a county horse project meeting held at Amber Henderson's indoor arena at 4:00 PM on **February 16**. Amber will be offering an equine safety and first aid presentation. This meeting will be without horses.

There is a t-shirt design contest open to any horse project member. It may be digital or hand drawn. Send designs to joann.westbrook@yahoo.com.

Community 4-H CARNIVAL

The 4-H CARNIVAL is OPEN TO THE ENTIRE COUNTY. It is **Saturday, February 22** from 6:00-8:00 PM at the Oskaloosa Junior High School. This is one of our 4-H Council's largest fundraisers, so it's important to be selling your raffle tickets. If you need tickets, contact your club leader or stop by the office. The clubs and Council have been very generous in the prize donations and there is something for everyone! Game tickets will be 25¢ each.

What will be at the CARNIVAL?

- Rock Climb Slide Obstacle Course
- Cow Bounce House
- Hoop Zone Basketball
- Dodge Ball
- Cupcake Walk
- Corn Hole
- Bingo
- · Hair braiding with tinsel
- Face painting
- Country Store homemade basket items in a LIVE AUCTION
- Raffle Prize Drawing
- Many, many more games, activities, and prize room

Jefferson County Booster Club

Interested in helping with the fair award system and supporting our 4-H youth, consider joining the Jefferson County Booster Club. Please email Deanna Gier at deannagier@yahoo.com or 4hboostersjfcoks@gmail.com for information regarding the next meeting.

2025 Swine Tagging Changes

We are going to have a centralized tagging event sometime this Spring. Swine project members, please watch for emails with more information.

4-H County Club Day

County 4-H Club Day at 9:00 AM on Saturday, March 1 at Jefferson West High School. The snow date is set for March 8 at Jefferson West High School. If you plan to participate, please contact your club leader. All entries must be turned in to the office by February 14. Entries may be added later, if space allows. Once entries are received, we will distribute information about the order and room location. If you signed up and need to cancel, please let the office or room monitors know. You are encouraged to watch other 4-Hers present and will learn so much by doing so.

Presentation skills are one of the life skills that 4-Hers are known for, and we hope many of you will choose to participate. If you are looking for helpful hints, guidelines, score sheets, and entry areas offered, please check out our District Club Day guide at: https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/4-h/resources.html.

NOTE: We plan to have judging competitions and practice for state fair events in Crop Identification, Photography, Meats, and FACS. PLUS, our ambassadors are offering a fun citizenship project to benefit our senior citizens. We hope you will participate in all of these opportunities.

Jefferson Co. 4-H Scholarships

Applications are due in the office on Friday, March 28. Scholarships are for current high school seniors or high school graduates enrolled in higher education. This also includes the Career & Technical College Program (example: Washburn Institute of Technology) during junior or senior years in high school and students taking concurrent college classes. Applicants must be a current Jefferson County 4-H member. The application form is accessible on the Oskaloosa 4-H webpage.

Jf. Co. Education Ext. Unit Scholarships

High school seniors and college freshmen attending in-state colleges or Vo-Tech programs are eligible to apply. See your school counselor or contact the office for the applications. These are due on **April 1.**

County T-Shirt Design Winner

Congratulations to Addie Burns of the Billtown 4-H Club for submitting the winning design. Our 2025 Fair Theme is "Sew It, Grow It, Show It".

Nemaha County News

4-H Club Day

4-H Club Day is right around the corner. It will be held Saturday, **March 1**, at Wetmore School. This is a great time for all 4-H youth to show off their individual and club talents. All divisions will begin at approximately 9:00 AM and we will plan to be done by noon. Please see the Club Guide at https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/4-h/resources.html for more information.

We ask that you sign up with your club leader for events that you plan to participate in. While we appreciate your enthusiasm and typically encourage participation in several areas, we hope you will only sign up for presentations you will be able to present. This is very helpful when finding judges and completing schedules.

If the weather would turn bad, and you have any doubts whether club day will be held or not, listen to KMZA or KNZA for information or give Deb a call at 785-336-1272.

Livestock Tagging and Weigh-In

Livestock tagging and weigh-in dates have been set. If you are enrolled in market beef, sheep, meat goats or swine this involves you. To participate in the market animal classes at the Nemaha County Fair you must take part in these events. If you are unable to attend the weigh-in in Seneca, you are welcome to attend weigh-ins at Jackson or Jefferson County. Sheep, Goats and Swine ear tags cost \$3.00 and Beef are \$4.00. Ear tags must be paid for that day.

- Beef Weigh-In February 28 from 3:30–5:30 PM at the Seneca Veterinary Clinic
 - 3:30-4:15 Achievers, Centralia Aces, HHHH
 - 4:15-4:45 Kelly Twilighters, Red Rustlers, Stateliners
 - 4:45-5:30 Busy Jayhawkers, Pony Express, Woodlawn Meadowlarks
- Sheep/Goat Weigh-In May 3 from 7:30 8:30 AM at the Fairgrounds North Barn

Horse Project Meetings

There will be county-wide horse project meetings held at the Extension Office starting at 5:00 PM on Sundays, from **February 16 through March 16**. If you have any questions, please email Jaime Hermesch at jamie.eric.hermesch@gmail.com.

2025 Kansas Pride Theme is "Cows".

Swine Tagging

This year we are going to require a centralized swine tagging. Due to the state recommendations, we are no longer able to sell the tags over the counter. Tagging date(s) and location(s) to be determined.

Dog Practice

If you would like to participate in Dog practice, please contact Karen VanWinkle at 785-799-5745. They have set practice to be on Monday nights starting in March at the Community Building in Seneca.

Nemaha County Fair

It is never too early to start planning for the County Fair! The 2025 fair theme is "Cowboy Boots and Fair Roots"

- Consultation Judging Wednesday, July 16
- Fair Dates July 24–28

Achievement Pin Applications

Now is the time to look at what the next Achievement pin you will be so you can start working on it for this year. Deciding this early will have you not scrambling at the last minute trying to get everything done.

Photo Opportunity

How would you like for a picture you took to be on the cover of the 2025 fair book? Pictures need to be based on this year's fair theme "Cowboy Boots and Fair Roots". You do not have to be in the Photography project to do this. Please submit your photo to Deb's email, dahenry@ksu.edu, before **April 1.**

Clover Classroom

Are you looking for something fun to do for a project meeting or just a fun activity. Visit h.org/resources/leader-resources/cloverclassroom/index.html for great resources. These challenges will enhance the learning, leadership, and community service within each project area. You can also visit h.org/about/4-h-at-home/ which has many other activities to try.

Kansas 4-H Project Report Resources

Why wait until August to work on your records. Set goals, practice record keeping, reflect, and compete using Kansas 4-H Project Reports. All forms, along with video tutorials, can be found at https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/4-h/project_records.html



Meadowlark Extension District Oskaloosa Office P.O. Box 326 100 E . Washington Oskaloosa, KS 66066-0326

Address Service Requested



Calendar of Events

Feb. 2: YQCA in-person training, JA Ambassador Game Day, JF

Feb. 5: Junior Swine Producer Days Registration Deadline

Feb. 13: 4-H Council Meeting, JA

Feb. 14: 4-H County Club Day Entries Due, JF Feb. 16: County Horse Project Meeting, JF Feb. 17: Offices Closed for President's Day Feb. 22: Jefferson Co. 4-H Carnival, Oskaloosa

County 4-H Club Day, JA

Feb. 22-23: Horse Panorama, Rock Springs

Feb. 26: Junior Meat Goat Producer Days Registration Deadline

Feb. 28: Beef Weigh-In, NM

Mar. 1: State 4-H Scholarship Applications Due

Fair Book Changes Due, NM County 4-H Club Day, JF County 4-H Club Day, NM

Junior Swine Producer Days, Manhattan

Mar. 2: Beef Weigh-In, JA

Mar. 3: Regional Club Day Registrations Due

Mar. 8: Beef Weigh-In, JF

Mar. 21: Horse Judging Contest, Salina

Mar. 22: Junior Meat Goat Producer Days, Manhattan Regional Club Day, Atchison

Mar. 28: JF Co. 4-H Scholarship Applications Due, JF

Mar. 29: Open Spring Beef Show, VF

Apr. 1: Fair Book Cover Photo Submissions Due, NM JF Co. Ed. Ext. Unit Scholarship Applications Due, JF

Apr. 5: Open Spring Poultry Show, VF **Apr. 19:** Community Easter Egg Hunt, JA

May 1: State Fair Animal Exhibition Deadline

May 3: Sheep/Goat Weigh-In, NM

May 4: Swine Tagging, JA

June 27: Pre-Fair Entries Due, JA

June 28: Horse Show, JA
Jul. 2: Dog Show:, JA

Jul. 8: Pre-fair judging, JA Jul. 14-18: County Fair, JA

Jul. 16: Consultation Judging, NM

Jul. 24-28: County Fair, NM July 28-31: County Fair, JF

Holton Office

114 W 5th St. Holton, KS 66436-1778 785-364-4125

Oskaloosa Office

P.O. Box 326 100 E Washington Oskaloosa, KS 66066-0326 785-863-2212

Seneca Office

1615 Branch St. Seneca, KS 66538-1504 785-336-2184

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