

## 4-H UPDATES



Official Newsletter of Meadowlark Extension District 4-H

### Abbie Burger, Meadowlark Extension Agent—Seneca



Hi! My name is Abbie Burger, and I am excited to join the Meadowlark District as the new 4-H Agent in the Seneca office.

I bring a strong background in agriculture, leadership, and youth development, fueled by my lifelong passion for the 4-H program.

Having been raised just outside of Wathena, Kansas, I understand the value of rural communities and the important role 4-H plays in shaping young leaders. I graduated from Kansas State

University in 2019 with a degree in Animal Science and a minor in Business. I worked as an Office Professional/Program Assistant in Brown County for 2.5 years, focusing on STEM and wildlife programming while assisting with the 4-H program.

My connection to 4-H runs deep. As a 12-year member of the Doniphan County 4-H program, I actively participated in many aspects of the organization. From county fairs and state leadership events to the Interstate Exchange Program, I experienced firsthand the incredible opportunities 4-H provides. These experiences significantly shaped my leadership skills and passion for working with youth.

Outside of my professional role, I enjoy spending time outdoors, fishing, and making memories with friends and family. I have been married to Zach for six years, and we have three children: Drew is 3, and Wyatt and Knox are 6-month-old twins. We are big K-State Wildcat fans.



I look forward to this new chapter and am excited to connect with 4-H members, families, and volunteers across the community. Please feel free to introduce yourself when you see me—I'm thrilled to be part of this district and eager to see the positive impact we can make together in our 4-H program.

~Abbie Burger



# May 2026

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## Champions Livestock Judging Camp

This is a three-day, intense judging camp designed for 4-H and FFA members (ages 14-18) who are seriously interested in enhancing their livestock judging and oral communication skills. Prior livestock judging experience is necessary for this camp. Workouts will be conducted similar to those at a collegiate level.

Payton Dahmer, KSU livestock judging team coach, will conduct the training for each camp. The camp will focus primarily on the proper format, terminology, and presentation of oral reasons. Camp participants will also be exposed to livestock evaluation skills and incorporating performance records in the decision-making process.

Camp 1 - **June 1-3** (Monday-Wednesday)      Camp 2 - **June 8-10** (Monday-Wednesday)

Registration can be found at: <https://www.asi.k-state.edu/extension/youth-programs/events/judging-camps.html>.

## Geology State Field Trip

The Geology State Field Trip will be held **June 12–14**, with headquarters in southeast Kansas at Parsons Middle School, 2719 Main St., Parsons.

Workshops and activities are planned for Friday and Saturday evenings, along with numerous field trip stops on Saturday and Sunday. Project members are encouraged to participate in judging and Quiz Bowl. Educational publications will be available for purchase through the Kansas Geological Survey.

Registration is open until **May 15** at <https://cvent.me/3owkLQ>. All attendees—including siblings and parents/guardians—must register. No late registrations will be accepted. Cancellations on or before May 15 will incur a 50% fee; cancellations after May 15 will be charged the full registration fee.

Costs: Registration—**\$10.00**

Guide Books—**\$5.00**

T-shirts—**\$20.00 each**

Geology Boxes (some woods may be limited). Everything must be ordered through registration:

Pine—**\$55.00**

Elm—**\$65.00**

Walnut—**\$65.00**

Sycamore—**\$65.00**

Oak—**\$65.00**

Cedar—**\$65.00**

Participants should bring lunch for Saturday and Sunday. Friday and Saturday dinners are on your own.

## Insect Spectacular

Beetles, bugs, dragonflies, and more! Insect Spectacular, the State Entomology Workshop, will be held **Friday and Saturday, June 19–20** at the North Community Building, 505 N. Buckeye Street in Iola.

Registration is open **April 24–May 25** and will not reopen. No refunds will be given after registration closes; cancellations before that date receive a 50% refund. A parent from each family must register, attend, and remain with their child(ren).

Wear comfortable clothing and closed-toe shoes (no sandals). Bring long pants for field trips, insect repellent, sunscreen, a collection net, kill jar, specimen containers, and a camera.

A limited number of insect display boxes will be available for **\$65** on a first-come, first-served basis.

Each 4-H member may select up to three insects for the pinning class. The **\$85** registration fee includes Friday supper, Saturday lunch, bottled water, class materials, a T-shirt, and handouts.

Non-participating attendees must pay **\$55** for meals and water (no T-shirt or supplies). Please bring a sack lunch for Friday noon.

## Flint Hills Farm to Fashion Camp

The Farm to Fashion Camp exposes middle and high school students to the sheep and wool industries through a highly hands-on and interactive camp experience.

This four-day camp introduces students to fiber arts and fashion design. The camp includes hands-on experiences with activities such as spinning, dyeing, weaving, and fashion design.

It is on **July 13-26** at the K-State Campus. Middle and high school students going into 7<sup>th</sup> grade and above are eligible for camp. The camp is **\$100**, but this does not include lodging or food.

For more information and to register: <https://www.hhs.k-state.edu/consumer-sciences/about/events/fs/farmtofashioncamp/>.

### \*\*\*Senior Spotlight\*\*\*

We will be sending out a special newsletter later in May titled “Senior Spotlight”. This newsletter will be dedicated to the 2026 Senior 4-Her’s of Jackson, Jefferson and Nemaha Counties. The kids will be providing some information on the following topics:

- What high school they have been attending
- Their 4-H Club
- What is their favorite project and why.
- Favorite 4-H event and why
- What is something that they learned in 4-H that they will use throughout their life?
- What their future plans are.

### Horse Project Mandatory Coggins Test and Horse ID’s

All horses that will be exhibited at the county level are required to show proof of a negative EIA (Coggins) test conducted by a state-approved laboratory within 12 months prior to exhibition. This requirement is for ALL local shows in 2026 as well as for horses changing ownership. Foals six months of age and younger, accompanying their EIA-negative dams, are exempt from EIA test.

If you plan to go to the State Fair horse show, you must turn in a horse ID form by **June 1**. Exhibitors at State 4-H Show must complete the horse safety webinar and training before entering state fair shows.

### VetMed ROCKS Summer Camps

Vet Med ROCKS is an immersive opportunity for students to experience veterinary medicine in a fun, hands-on and educational environment with current DVM students, veterinary faculty and staff. We offer interactive activities, expert-led workshops and career insights for participants interested in becoming veterinarians. Join us for a full day of labs and interact with our teaching animals at KSU College of Veterinary Medicine.

- **Monday, July 27:** high schoolers (entering 9th-12th grade) and college.
- **Tuesday, July 28:** middle schoolers (entering 6th-8th grade).
- **Wednesday, July 29:** grade schoolers (entering 3rd-5th grade).

These campers will be attending hands-on labs with faculty and vet med student camp counselors throughout their respective days.

Cost of the camp is **\$125.00** per camper regardless of age. Lunch and snacks are provided. Registration begins at 8:30 AM. Camp will begin promptly at **9:00 AM**. Visit this site for more information: <https://www.vet.k-state.edu/admissions/rocks/>.

Due to a generous grant from the Bill House Ag Grant through the Community Foundation of South East Kansas to support 4-H youth learning in the 4-H Veterinary Science project, scholarships are available to 4-H'ers attending KSU's College of Veterinary Medicine's VetMed Rocks Summer Camps. If a 4-H member applies for the scholarship and attends camp, they will receive reimbursement. Applications are accepted until funds are exhausted. Please contact your local office for more information.

### State 4-H Horticulture Judging Contest

The State 4-H Horticulture Judging Contest will be held **Saturday, August 15**, in Manhattan, hosted by the Department of Horticulture and Natural Resources.

Intermediates must be 9–13 and Seniors 14–18 before January 1 of the current year. The contest helps members build skills in thinking, reasoning, and making scientific judgments through plant identification, knowledge tests, and judging classes.

Registration information will be sent to local offices in late June 2026. Youth ages 9–18 are eligible. The link above includes study materials, past contests, and required forms. For more information, visit [www.kansas4-h.org/educational-experiences/project-based-events/contests/horticulture-judging/](http://www.kansas4-h.org/educational-experiences/project-based-events/contests/horticulture-judging/).

### Why 4-H ???

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

*“Through my many years in 4-H, I have learned that the people I have met in 4-H are the best part.”*



# Project Spotlight



## Table Settings

4-H table setting projects teach etiquette, menu planning, and creative hosting, requiring a single, themed place setting with a menu, table covering, dishes, and centerpiece. Proper placement includes forks on the left, knives/spoons on the right, and a 12-inch high max centerpiece. Guidelines emphasize menu balance, functional design, and cleanliness. 4-Hers must be enrolled in the foods project.

- **Table Setting Setup:** Plate in the center (1 inch from edge). Fork(s) to the left, knife/spoons to the right (cutting edge inward).
- **Themed Display:** Participants create a theme (casual or formal) and choose a menu, tableware, and decorations.
- **Essential Items:** Includes a tablecloth/placemat, napkin, fork, knife, spoon, plate, and glass.
- **Menu and Recipe:** A menu card must be displayed, often listing foods in the order they are served.
- **Centerpiece:** Should be functional for the table, not just decorative, and generally under 12 inches tall.

### Contest Guidelines (Based on Typical 4-H Rules)

- **Evaluation:** Judged on creativity, menu nutritional balance, and proper etiquette knowledge.
- **Age Divisions:** Typically divided into Juniors (9–11), Intermediates (12–13), and Seniors (14–18).
- **Appearance:** Participants often wear clothing that coordinates with their theme.
- **Preparation:** Participants must set their own table without assistance.

Why participate in the Table Setting Contest? It is a fun way learn how to:

- Properly set a table.
- Plan nutritious meals.
- Express originality and creativity in choosing a theme.
- Present to the judge.
- Express knowledge of food, nutrition and food safety.

## Premium Auction Requirements

Any 4-H member wishing to participate in premium auctions at county fair, need to annually complete the premium auction requirement form. This form was reviewed last year to put emphasis on virtual opportunities, serving as satisfactory replacement for in-person activities where applicable. The process encourages year-round 4-H engagement and involvement. FFA member (in counties where eligible for fairs) have a corresponding set of requirements. To review the form please visit: <https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/docs/4h/fair-forms-for-all-offices/PREMIUM%20SALE%20REQUIREMENTS.pdf>.

## Kids a Cookin' Camp - Open to All

A cooking camp for students in grades 3rd through 6th will be held from **9:00–11:30 AM, June 2-4**, at the Oskaloosa Methodist Church. This year's theme is 'STEAMsational'.

There is no charge to attend, but **registration will be required**. Space is limited to **24 students**, so please register as soon as possible. Participants are expected to attend all three days of the camp. For more information, contact Amanda Manville or Cindy Williams in the Oskaloosa office at 785-863-2212.

# Jackson County News

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Sheep & Goat Weigh-In

Weigh in for sheep and goats will be **Sunday, May 3** at Northeast Kansas Heritage Complex from **3:00-4:00 PM**. If you just have sheep and/or goats to weigh, you may enter the South gate or the West gate and come along the South side of the complex to the South side of the building. Please watch for the other trucks/trailers coming out from swine tagging. Tags are **\$3.00** and what you classify for breed that day will be what breed your animal will show in.

### Swine Tagging Important Information

We have had to switch the time frame for the Swine Tagging. We will now tag swine from **3:00-4:00 PM** on **Sunday, May 3** at the Northeast Kansas Heritage Complex.

We plan to run 2 tagging locations. ALL trailers will need to enter through the West gate. We will then have trailers with swine either go through the barn (like we do for fair unloading) or they can continue down the driveway heading East and come along the livestock barn on the East side. This hopefully will speed up the process.

Tags are **\$3.00** each and must be paid for that day. Remember that superintendents will not enter your trailers to tag the swine, the families will do the tagging. This is a recommendation from Kansas 4-H.

What breed you tell us that day will be the breed that your hog will show in. ALL swine need to be tagged including breeding gilts and open class hogs.

### Spring Livestock Show

The Jackson County Spring Livestock Show will be held on **May 23**. For more information please visit the Meadowlark Extension District 4-H Event page for entry forms or contact Justin Rinkes at 785-231-4305

### Changes at the Fair

Every 4-H family will receive a printed fair book. They will be available for you to pick up from your club leader at your **June** 4-H meeting. A tentative schedule for the fair is on our website.

### 4-H Council Meeting

The next 4-H Council Meeting is **7:00 PM** on **June 11** at the NE Kansas Heritage Building. We will be going over last minute fair schedule and activities.

### Horse Show

The 4-H Horse Show will be on **Wednesday, June 24** starting at **5:00 PM**.

### Fair Pre-Entry

Just a reminder that you will enter all your fair entries in our fair entry system called FairEntry.

1. With this program you as the 4-H member will enter all pre-entries. Only enter exhibits that you will be bringing to the fair.
2. We will be printing off the entry cards according to what you enter online into FairEntry. You will pick up and attach cards when you bring your exhibit to pre-fair judging or at the fair.
3. All pre-entries will be due in FairEntry by Friday, June 26.

### Fairgrounds Clean-Up

The fair board will hold their pre-fair set-up on **Saturday, July 11** at 9:00 AM. It takes everyone's help to make the fairgrounds look nice and get ready for fair. So come when you can and lend a hand and make the fairgrounds look nice.

### State Scholarship Winner

We are pleased to recognize the accomplishments of our State Scholarship recipient: **Dalton Peters**.

Congratulations to Dalton on this significant achievement.

### Painting Swine Pens

If anyone is looking for a community service project, the fair board have asked for people to help paint the swine pens at the fairgrounds. The pens are set outside and anyone interested in helping paint them can contact Aaron Allen at 785-851-7313.

### 4-H Event Scholarship

The Jackson County 4-H Council Event, Senior, and Alumni Scholarships are available on our website under the Jackson Page. Check it out to see what the guidelines are.

### Fair Packets

The fair packet will contain lots of important fair information. So don't just throw it to the side. Please open it right away. It will include instructions on how to pre-enter fair exhibits online.

# Jefferson County News



## Donated Fabric

A community member donated fabrics, tools, and craft-related items to the program. Those items are available to members on a first come, first served basis. Pictured are the lighter weight fabrics ranging in texture from microfiber to chiffon. The donation also included heavy weight and upholstery-grade fabric, yarn, fiber art tools, wooden latch boxes, fabric trim pieces, and more. As fair exhibits come together, consider how these items may be of use and stop by the office to claim yours.

## Shooting Sports State Match

Jefferson County 4-H Shooting Sports had amazing representation **April 18** at the Spring State Match. Mason Baker, Peyton Gooch, Ian Hoffman, KayLee Meyer, Harlee Sellens, Bentley Weishaar, and Lucille Weishaar competed in BB. Jayden Herrman competed in Air Pistol. Jayden Herrman, Aurora Hoffman, Ian Hoffman, Rylee McGaughy, Bentley Weishaar, and Theodore Weishaar competed in Air Rifle.

Harlee Sellens walked away with the top placing in BB standing position, senior division. Jayden Herrman left an impact, taking home fourth place in Air Pistol paper targets, third in Air Rifle aggregate senior division, second in Air Rifle and Air Pistol silhouettes and first overall aggregate.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Presentation Bootcamp

Planning has commenced for a youth training event to teach public speaking techniques. The event is intended to benefit Royalty contestants and members who give prepared talks at club meetings or county and state competitions and prepare fair exhibitors to speak with judges during consultations.

Please complete an interest survey to help inform the planning process. This is to gauge age range of interested members, as well as ideal training length for potential attendees.

The survey closes **May 8**.

[https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_aWegqCYi7DfYT7o](https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_aWegqCYi7DfYT7o).



### 4-H Council Meeting

Mark calendars for the **May 18** Jefferson County 4-H Council Meeting. It starts at **7:00 PM** at the Fairgrounds. Agenda items include 4-H foundation support, achievement banquet planning and fairgrounds set-up tasks.

### 4-H Foundation Opportunities

Join the Jefferson County 4-H Foundation on **June 27** at Village Greens Golf Course in Ozawkie for the annual golf tournament fundraiser. Form a team or sponsor a hole—all proceeds directly benefit Jefferson County 4-H members. Tee time is **1:30 PM**.

### Royalty Contestants

Each candidate nominated by his or her club should be watching for contest forms and information to arrive by mail. Details about a contest etiquette session in **June**, to be hosted concurrently with the Presentation Bootcamp, are expected to be shared soon. The contest is scheduled for **Thursday, July 16** at **7:00 PM** with the crowning to take place **Friday, July 24**, during the Public Fashion Revue.

In the meantime, the Foundation invites any 4-H member, alumni, or Jefferson County resident to start perfecting a pie recipe for the annual contest at the fair. All entries are auctioned Wednesday evening after the community parade with funds to benefit the Foundation's work.

### 2026 Fair Information

The one-time Show Ring Code of Ethics has been rolled into the annual Meadowlark District Fair Participant's Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct must be completed by every 4-H member prior to **July 1** and submitted with proper signatures.

The Premium Sale Auction Requirements form applies to exhibitors planning to sell an animal. It must be signed by a club leader and, therefore, provided to a club leader for signatures before the **July 1** deadline.

### Fair Book

The little book that guides fair week is expected to be published digitally by **May 1**. See the Jefferson County 4-H webpage at <https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/4-h/oskaloosa.html> under 2026 Jefferson County Fair to see exhibit rules, committees, and other vital project materials and information.

### Dates to Know

- **June 1:** Fair Entry system opens for exhibit submissions, Bucket Calf and Horse ID forms due to office.
- **July 1:** Required forms and entries due.

# Nemaha County News

## Changes at the Fair

- YQCA must be completed, and the certificate submitted by May 1.
- Any animal not checked in before its designated time will not be eligible for showmanship or class awards with that animal.
- Beef neckties will be checked following the livestock meeting and must be worn correctly. Members will receive one warning; if neckties are still worn incorrectly or not used, the 4-H member's ribbon premium will be withheld.
- Sexually intact males are not eligible to be shown in the 4-H/FFA Beef, Dairy, Goat, Horse, Sheep, or Swine divisions. The exception is bull calves shown as part of a cow/calf pair or as bucket calves.
- All flowers exhibited at the fair must be grown by the 4-H member during the current year.
- No-bake cookies or snack mix are only appropriate for members under 9 years old.
- A perishable food class added (county fair only)
  - Examples of Perishable Foods include items with custard or dairy-based fillings and frostings, such as fresh fruit or vegetable products, meat products, raw eggs, cream pies, and "canned" bread.
- Self-Determined
  - Limit of **two** entries per class, with no duplications
  - **Class 707 – Building and Learning Exhibit** (K-Nex, puzzles, Lincoln logs, kits, model cars)
  - **Class 708 – Agriculture/scale model display** (outside dimension no larger than 4ft x 4ft)
- Table Setting judging has been moved to Thursday to coincide with Foods judging.
- Round Robin will be on **Monday at 9:30 AM**, and Livestock Judging will begin at **1:00 PM**.

## State Scholarship Winners

We are pleased to recognize the accomplishments of our State Scholarship recipients: **Bob Langill, Addie Haverkamp, and Natalee Strathman**.

Congratulations to each of these individuals on this significant achievement.

## 4-H Event Scholarship

The Nemaha County 4-H Council Event Scholarship is available on the website under the Nemaha/Seneca section.

This scholarship supports youth attending camps. Applicants should review eligibility guidelines and submit materials accordingly.

## Livestock Exhibitors

Livestock exhibitors are responsible for making arrangements for their animals following the fair, including securing a buyer or scheduling with a locker facility.

Some locker facilities are already booking, so please make arrangements promptly.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Fair Books

Fair books will be available soon and distributed to Club Leaders by the **May club meetings**. An electronic version will also be posted on the website in the coming weeks.

### Fair Packets

Fair packets will be mailed in early **June**. Watch for a **large brown envelope** with important fair information.

Please review materials promptly, as instructions for online pre-entries are included.

### Ambassador Day Camp

The Nemaha County 4-H Ambassadors will host their annual Day Camp on **Wednesday, June 17**.

Open to youth ages **6–9**. Participation is not limited to 4-H members; all youth are welcome.

- Time: **9:00-11:30 AM**
- Location: **Community Building, Seneca**

Additional information will be distributed through local schools later this month.

### Fair Pre-Entry Information

Please review the following requirements:

- All 4-H members must complete pre-entries through **4HOnline/FairEntry**.
- Enter only exhibits intended for display.
- Entry cards must be picked up and attached prior to judging.
- **YQCA certification** for all livestock exhibitors is due **May 1** (submit to the Extension Office).
- Pre-entries and the **Premium Auction Requirement** form are due **July 1**.

### Premium Sale Requirements

Exhibitors planning to participate in the Premium Auction are required to complete the **Premium Sale Requirement** form **annually**.

- Forms available on the Meadowlark Extension website and are due to the Extension Office by **July 1**, with a club leader's signature.
- Complete this requirement way before the deadline.



**Meadowlark Extension District**

**Holton Office**  
114 W 5th St.  
Holton, KS 66436-1778

**Address Service Requested**

## Calendar of Events

- May 1:** YQCA certification due date  
KSF/KJLS Market Beef nomination deadline date
- May 2:** Sheep & Goat weigh-in, NM
- May 3:** Spring weigh-in for all other livestock, JA  
Swine tagging, JA
- May 8:** Presentation Bootcamp survey closes
- May 15:** Geology State Field Trip registration closes
- May 18:** 4-H Council meeting, JF
- May 23:** Spring Livestock Show, JA
- May 25:** **Extension District offices closed for Memorial Day**
- June 1:** 4-H Council & Senior Scholarship applications due, JA  
Horse identification certificates due
- June 2-4:** Kids A Cookin' Camp, JF
- June 3-5:** Discovery Days, Manhattan
- June 5:** Small Livestock DNA envelope purchase date deadline
- June 10-13:** Animal Science Leadership Academy, Manhattan
- June 11:** 4-H Council Meeting, JA
- June 12-14:** 4-H Geology State Field Trip, Parsons
- June 13-23:** Citizenship Washington Focus Trip
- June 14:** Pinewood Derby Workshop—Paint/popsicle, VF
- June 15:** Small Livestock nomination deadline date
- June 16:** Bucket Calf meeting, JF
- June 17:** Ambassador Day Camp, NM
- June 19-20:** Insect Spectacular, Iola
- June 24:** 4-H Horse Show, JA
- June 26:** Fair 4-H/.FFA online entries due, JA
- June 27:** 4-H Foundation Golf tournament fundraiser, JF
- July 1:** Livestock Premium Auction Requirements form due
- July 11:** Fairgrounds clean-up, JA
- July 12:** Pinewood Derby Workshop—Pre-race checks, VF
- July 13:** Bucket Calf meeting, JF
- July 13-26:** Flint Hills Farm to Fashion Camp, Manhattan
- July 27:** VetMed ROCKS Camp for 9th-12th graders and college age, Manhattan
- July 28:** VetMed ROCKS Camp for 6th-8th graders, Manhattan
- July 29:** Vet Med ROCKS Camp for 3-5th graders, Manhattan
- Aug. 15:** State 4-H Horticulture Judging Contest, Manhattan

**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